



~ Santa Catalina Island ~
236 Metropole Ave.
P.O. Box 98 Avalon, CA 90704
Phone 310-510-1889
Fax 424-210-8438
Email ACC90704@aol.com

Dear Groom and Bride to be,

Thank you for your inquiry about weddings at Avalon Community Church. Enclosed is a packet of information and a reservation form. Please read through the information thoroughly and complete the information form. Both bride and groom must sign the form.

Mail or fax the form back to us as soon as possible to tentatively reserve the date. Please understand, we will not hold a date until we have received your deposit. Upon receipt of your deposit, which should be half of the total amount, we will send you a reservation confirmation. If you have any questions feel free to give me a call.

Avalon Community Church does require Christian pre-marital counseling. When your counseling is completed your counselor should send a letter on letterhead stating you have completed the counseling. This is usually required to be completed 30 days prior to the wedding.

We look forward to participating with you in making your wedding a “once in a lifetime” memory!

In His Service,

Katie Riley
Administrative Assistant

• Approximately how many guests will be attending? _____

• Names of the two required witnesses:

• **Important:** Please attach a statement regarding bride and grooms church / faith background, your present church involvement and why you have chosen Avalon to marry.

We welcome you and will assist in any way we can to make your Christian Ceremony sacred and meaningful. Please return this information sheet as soon as possible. Your wedding application will be reviewed by our Pastoral Team for approval. Weddings are approved based on existing Elder Team approved guidelines. Upon receipt of this completed form along with your statements of faith and current church involvement your application will be submitted to the Pastoral Team for approval. Please expect to be contact within 7 days to discuss the approval and to confirm your reservation for the date and time you desire. At this point you will be asked to submit a deposit of one half of the facilities use fee.

**We the undersigned request to married under the guidelines set forth in this document. We have read and understand the attached Guidelines for Counseling and Vows and agree to abide by those guidelines.

Groom _____ Date _____

Bride _____ Date _____

FOR STAFF USE ONLY

Received (date/by) _____ Pastoral approval (date/by) _____

Calendared (date/by) _____



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Guidelines for Counseling and Vows

Premarital Counseling

Because of the present crisis in American marriages, the astronomical divorce rate, the devastating effects of divorce, and the deteriorating integrity in marriage, we *require* a minimum of three separate sessions of premarital counseling, from a **Christian Professional**. This is a “must” for all couples married at A.C.C.

Unless you are an Island resident, or on the Island frequently and are able to schedule counseling with one of our Pastors, we will allow you counsel with a Christian pastor, priest or marriage counselor in your area. Before beginning counseling we require you to submit the counselor’s name and contact information so we may contact them to review the counseling requirements.

Prior to performing your ceremony we require verification that you have received such counseling; therefore a letter from your counselor is to be sent to us fifteen (15) days prior to the wedding otherwise we will be unable to perform the wedding.

Verification must be on letterhead of the church or agency, with return address, telephone number, and contact person. It shall contain the signature of the counselor certifying that he/she has met with you for a minimum of three sessions and has covered the following areas:

Commitment	Finances
Communication	Roles and Responsibilities
Fidelity and Sexuality	Priorities and Decision Making
In-law Relationships	Planning for Parenthood

Marriage Vows

Marriage, as it has been established by God, is recognized by this church to be exclusively the legal union of one man and one woman in a covenantal relationship. We regard the marriage vows as sacred in the sight of God, therefore, they are to be taken seriously. We ask you to read the following vows that will be used in your ceremony.

Should you wish to write your own vows we require that the vows affirm the points of commitment found in the vows that follow. We are happy to have you work with the Pastor to develop vows specific to your ceremony and marriage.

I, _____, take you _____, to be my wedded wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, so help me God.

If you cannot wholeheartedly, without any reservation, submit to these vows, then we expect you to postpone your wedding day until you can.

These vows state that marriage is a permanent bond, “until death do us part.” The wedding ceremony creates a “Oneness” that is no person should tear apart. We expect your desire for marriage to have the Oneness found in Matthew 19:5-6 “*For this cause shall a man leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh’ Therefore they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*”

Your return of the completed application communicates to us that you agree to the preceding and desire a Christian marriage ceremony.

May the Lord bless your decision.

Please give this letter to your counselor prior to your first session.



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Dear Counselor,

The astronomical divorce rate, the devastating effects of divorce and the deteriorating integrity in marriage provides proof of the “crisis” status of marriage in America. It is because of this status, and because we at the Avalon Community Church regard marriage as sacred in God’s sight, that premarital counseling is required of any couple wishing to be married by our pastors.

Since we cannot appropriately counsel from a distance, we have asked the couple desiring to be married to see a Christian professional such as a pastor, priest, psychologist, or other certified marriage counselor in their area. We require a minimum of three separate sessions of premarital counseling, covering the following topics:

Commitment

Communication

Fidelity and Sexuality

In-law Relationships

Finances

Roles and Responsibilities

Priorities and Decision Making

Planning for Parenthood

We know that we are taking a firm stand with these requirements. We feel that such a stand is necessary in the face of America’s marriage crisis. We trust your counseling will reflect the serious concern we have to affirm in this couple the permanency of their marriage commitment and covenantal nature of their vows.

Prior to performing the ceremony for this couple, we require signed verification from you that they have received such counseling. This verification must be on letterhead of the church or agency responsible for the counseling, with return address, telephone number and contact person. The verification must be submitted to us at least thirty (30) days prior to the wedding date, otherwise we will be unable to perform the wedding.

May the Lord bless you in your preparations,

Natalie Chavolla
Administrative Assistant