

Declaration of Intention

"We _____ and _____, desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the liturgical forms authorized by this Church.

"We believe it is for the purpose of mutual fellowship, encouragement, and understanding, for the procreation (if it may be) of children, and their physical and spiritual nurture, and for the safeguarding and benefit of society, and we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help thereto."

*We invite you to join us
for the journey of a lifetime.*



**Experience the difference that knowing
God's promises can make in your life.**

Guidelines

Concerning Holy Matrimony

The following guidelines have been established by the canons (national guidelines) of the Anglican Church and by our church to help you plan your service.

- At least one of the parties to be married must be a baptized Christian.
- The couple shall make known their intention to be married at least 30 days in advance.
- The bride should consult with the priest who will perform the service well beforehand concerning all arrangements.
- The bride and groom alone work with the priest on all arrangements. A wedding consultant may be helpful in planning your reception, but will not be needed for planning your service.
- To be married at Church of the Spirit, a couple must have some form of relationship with us, i.e. be a member, a frequent attender, or be in the process of joining our Church.
- Before contracting any marriage in an Anglican Church, a couple shall sign the Declaration of Intention. (See inside panel for the text of the declaration.)

**For more information,
call us at 703.971.5242
or visit us online at
www.dovefromabove.org**

Planning Your Wedding

*... learn about the guidelines
for Holy Matrimony set by the
Episcopal Church*

**"For this reason,
a man shall leave
his father and mother
and be joined
to his wife,
and the two
shall become one."**



Church of the Spirit

**KINGSTOWNE COMMUNITY CHURCH
5775 Barclay Drive ♦ Kingstowne, VA 22315
703.971.5242 ♦ www.dovefromabove.org**

Info Sheet

Let us know how we can help you:

- I'd like more information about arranging for a wedding at Church of the Spirit.

Please provide your contact information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Bride's Name: _____

Groom's Name: _____

Prospective Dates: _____

We would like to hold the service:

- at Church of the Spirit
- at a nearby traditional-style church
- outside
- other

Making Wedding Arrangements

◆ We recommend a modest use of flowers and other decorations.

◆ The form of the service used is according to the Book of Common Prayer. This service allows for a celebration of Holy Communion, if the couple so chooses.

◆ The choice of music is the prerogative of the priest who will perform the service, but the decision is made in consultation with the couple. The Book of Common Prayer (used by all Anglican churches) states that all music or hymns used in services are "understood as those authorized by this Church. The words of anthems are to be taken from Holy Scripture, or from this book, or from texts congruent with them." We certainly allow more modern music in our services. We will be glad to work with the couple to meet their needs.

◆ If a rehearsal dinner is planned, the wedding rehearsal should be scheduled before the dinner, preferably in the late afternoon or early evening on the day before the service.

◆ The marriage license should be presented to the priest at the time of the rehearsal.

◆ Because a wedding is a formal religious service in this church, flash photography during the service by professional photographers or guests will not be allowed. Time for pictures will be provided in the Church following the end of the service. Video cameras may be used during the service, and we will be glad to help the couple make arrangements for pictures or videos ahead of time. Professional photographers need to contact the church office prior to the rehearsal.

◆ Rice and confetti are appropriate for use after the reception, not after the service. Please wait until later for this, and ask family members to refrain from throwing rice or confetti in or near the Church.

◆ All of the sacraments of this church are provided free of charge. The only costs for a wedding at Church of the Spirit will be to pay for the musicians and for any additional cleaning needed following the service.

About Remarriage

Our church teaches that marriage is intended by God to be a lifelong union of husband and wife. We also understand that not all marriages remain intact. Divorce is a part of our lives and a sign that we do not yet live in a perfect world. We accept those who have been divorced and those seeking remarriage in our church, and they are welcome to receive communion in our services.

In order to be remarried in an Anglican Church, the couple should make their request to the priest far enough in advance of the desired date of the service in order to work through additional questions and counseling. For instance, a copy of final decrees will need to be presented to the priest, before the priest can request permission from the bishop to perform the service. In addition, if there have been multiple divorces, additional counseling may be required to make sure the reasons for the previous divorces will not undermine the new marriage. Because the church believes marriage is intended to be a lifelong union, for an Episcopal priest to perform a new marriage, he or she needs to request permission from the local bishop. This is different from the process used by the Roman Catholic Church, where the couple requests permission to be remarried. Here in this church, the priest requests permission to perform the service. In this way, the church struggles to be pastorally sensitive to those who have gone through a divorce while upholding its teaching that marriage is intended to be a lifelong union. For more information, please speak to one of our pastors.