

WEDDING POLICY

We, the members of First Baptist Church, are interested in promoting healthy, mature, and long-lasting Biblical marriages. The Bible expresses our fundamental conviction that Christian marriage is, by definition, the spiritual and physical uniting of one man and one woman in an exclusive covenant commitment for their joint lifetime. Christian marriage is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His Church. As such, this local church believes that wedding ceremonies on church properties are spiritual observances of worship of God who created this divine institution. As worship services, weddings on church properties shall be officiated by one or more ordained ministers of the Gospel. The church may decline to make its properties, facilities or ministers available for any wedding if it is determined that one or both of the parties are not Biblically and/or legally qualified to marry. Such determinations may be made by the Pastor, Deacon Body, or Church Council. No minister of this church shall officiate at any marriage ceremony on this church property unless such marriage is consistent with this policy. We want your wedding to be a special and worshipful day for everyone. To that end, the following guidelines are designed to help ensure an appropriate Biblical wedding as well as promoting good Christian homes.

I. Basic Practices

- A. Minister – First Baptist Church has ministers available to officiate the wedding ceremony. In the event that you choose not to use an FBC minister, the guest minister will need to be approved by the Pastor.
- B. Counseling – Prior to all weddings at First Baptist Church, the bride and groom must complete pre-marital counseling to the satisfaction of the Pastor.
- C. Music – Music is a very important part of the wedding ceremony and should at all times promote proper Christian principles. All music must be approved by the Pastor prior to the rehearsal.

II. Scheduling

- A. Weddings shall be scheduled and performed only if one or both parties are active members of this church as defined in the Constitution and By-laws.
- B. Weddings are scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis with no more than one wedding per day nor the ceremony scheduled on Sundays or Wednesdays.
- C. No wedding can be scheduled to begin before 10:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m.

III. General Guidelines

- A. Behavior at the rehearsal, wedding and reception should be appropriate and in consideration of this facility as a house of God.
- B. All wedding and reception supplies will be provided by the wedding party.
- C. The wedding party is responsible for securing all personal belongings and returning rental items. First Baptist Church is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- D. No nails, staples, tacks, pins or other articles which penetrate material are to be used to secure items to any walls, woodwork, masonry, pews, carpeting, curtains or other furnishings of the building.
- E. Only drip-less candles may be used. Ordinary candles are only to be used if they are for decorative purposes and are not lit. Plastic must be used under candelabras or candleholders of any kind.
- F. No rice, confetti or silly string will be brought on the church property. Birdseed and/or bubbles will be permitted on the church lawn or parking lots, well away from the doors.

WEDDING RESERVATION FORM

Bride Information

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Father's Name: _____ Mother's Name: _____

Groom Information

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Father's Name: _____ Mother's Name: _____

Wedding Information

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____ Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____

Non HFBC Officiating Minister: _____

Church Affiliation: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Important: *(please read and sign below)*

We have read and will comply with the Wedding Policy, the Building and Grounds Policy as well as any and all instructions given at the Pre-Booking interview.

Groom: _____ **Bride:** _____ **Date:** _____