

Wedding Guidelines

A couple needs to meet the following five requirements before we will agree to conduct the wedding and/or to let them use our church building for the wedding.

1. Both the bride and groom must know Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.
2. Either the bride or groom must be a member or regular attendee of First Baptist Church.
3. If a wedding is held at First Baptist there can be no dancing or alcohol at the reception, even if the reception is held off-site.
4. Both the bride and the groom must agree to meet with one of our Pastors before approval for use of the church is given.
5. The Pastors of First Baptist do not perform remarriage ceremonies following a divorce.*

*The Pastors do believe there are some biblical grounds for remarriage following divorce. They simply have chosen not to participate in the often complex process of remarriage when either the bride or groom (or both) have previously been divorced.

WEDDING POLICY

**First Baptist Church
512 S. U.S. 27
St. Johns, MI 48879**

Weddings are happy occasions. Every effort will be made to make this a special time for the couple being married. This policy is established to help the couple in their wedding plans in regards to church use and areas of church policy.

THE COUPLE

1. Premarital Counseling must be conducted by the pastor performing the ceremony.
2. Both the man and the woman shall have a personal relationship with Christ.

THE PASTOR

1. One of the pastors of this church shall generally be the one performing the ceremony.
2. If another pastor is performing the ceremony, he must be in agreement with our articles of Faith.

THE CEREMONY

The ceremony should be a reflection of the couple's love for each other and their love for the Lord.

THE BUILDING

1. The use of the building is free for members or regular attendees.
 - A. The family is responsible to set-up tables, chairs, etc. and to take them down for the reception and the auditorium.

- B. The family is to clean the kitchen - dishes, food, counters, etc.
- C. An option is available for the Facilities Manager to do the set-up and take-down for the reception for a fee of \$200.
- D. It is the responsibility of the family to meet with the Facilities Manager prior to the wedding to discuss set-up.

THE RECEPTION

- 1. It is preferable to have the reception at First Baptist Church.
- 2. If the reception must be held elsewhere due to size, there is to be no alcohol or dancing.

THE TIME

- 1. Due to the length of time needed to clean and prepare the church for Sunday services, Saturday weddings should begin no later than 2:00 p.m. if the reception is held in the church building. If the reception is held off-site, the Saturday wedding should begin no later than 4:00 p.m.

**ADDITIONAL WEDDING GUIDELINES
RELATED TO THE USE OF THE BUILDING
FOR A WEDDING**

1. Sound/Multi-Media Equipment:
 - A. If the wedding ceremony is held at our church, but the reception is held off-site due to size, you may use sound/multi-media system equipment at the reception if one of the church's sound/multi-media technicians physically takes the equipment to the reception and is responsible for the equipment during the reception, and then returns it to the church building following the reception.
 - B. If you plan on using a multi-media presentation (i.e. slide show pictures, video clip, etc.) during the ceremony, you must have a multi-media technician as well as a sound technician. These must be people who are our regular sound/multi-media church technicians.
2. No greens from the church auditorium or church building may be transported to an off-site reception.
3. The church must be locked while the family is at the reception.
4. Please put the auditorium back together and have personal items removed from the dressing rooms by 9:00 p.m. You may designate a person from the church to be responsible for the above duties. We would issue them a key code.
5. We need to have the parents, who have been issued the key code, to come back to the church after the reception and make sure all personal items have been removed and that the auditorium has been put back together by the designated person.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING
& BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

MAN

WOMAN

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

Age: _____ Phone # _____

Age: _____ Phone # _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Address: _____

Parent's Address: _____

2. PREVIOUS MARRIAGE(S):
yes ___ no ___

2. PREVIOUS MARRIAGE(S)
yes ___ no ___

If so, to whom? _____

If so, to whom? _____

How long? _____

How long? _____

Children:
Number: _____ Ages _____

Children:
Number: _____ Ages _____

3. WEDDING PLANS

A. Proposed date: _____ Time: _____

B. Place _____

C. Clergyman (If not a pastor of this church) _____

4. DO YOU BOTH AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING SESSIONS?

PROSPECTIVE GROOM

I. WRITE OUT YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY CONCERNING SALVATION:

II. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR CURRENT SPIRITUAL LIFE?

III. IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE?

IV. LIST SOME REASONS WHY YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE IN LOVE WITH THE ONE YOU PROMISE TO MARRY:

V. WHY DO YOU THINK THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO MARRY?

VI. ARE YOUR PARENTS IN FAVOR OF YOUR MARRIAGE AT THIS TIME?

Father: Yes_____ No_____ Reserved_____ (Explain):_____

Mother: Yes_____ No_____ Reserved_____ (Explain):_____

VII. RATE YOUR PARENTS' MARRIAGE:

Unhappy_____ Average_____ Happy_____ Very Happy_____

VIII. RATE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Father: Warm _____ Cool _____ Strained _____

Mother: Warm _____ Cool _____ Strained _____

Future father-in-law: Warm _____ Cool _____ Strained _____

Future mother-in-law: Warm _____ Cool _____ Strained _____

IX. LIST SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUR MATE-TO-BE WHICH:

You admire:

You would like changed:

PROSPECTIVE BRIDE

I. WRITE OUT YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY CONCERNING SALVATION:

II. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR CURRENT SPIRITUAL LIFE?

III. IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE?

IV. LIST SOME REASONS WHY YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE IN LOVE WITH THE ONE YOU PROMISE TO MARRY:

V. WHY DO YOU THINK THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO MARRY?

VI. ARE YOUR PARENTS IN FAVOR OF YOUR MARRIAGE AT THIS TIME?

Father: Yes _____ No _____ Reserved _____ (Explain): _____

Mother: Yes _____ No _____ Reserved _____ (Explain): _____

VII. RATE YOUR PARENTS' MARRIAGE:

Unhappy _____ Average _____ Happy _____ Very Happy _____

VIII. RATE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Father: Warm_____ Cool_____ Strained_____

Mother: Warm_____ Cool_____ Strained_____

Future father-in-law: Warm_____ Cool_____ Strained_____

Future mother-in-law: Warm_____ Cool_____ Strained_____

IX. LIST SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUR MATE-TO-BE WHICH:

You admire:_____ You would like changed:

WEDDING INFORMATION

Bride

(Name to be used in ceremony)

Groom

(Name to be used in ceremony)

ATTENDANTS

Ladies

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Men

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Ushers:

1.

2.

3.

4.

FLORIST:

PHOTOGRAPHER:

WEDDING COORDINATOR:

CANDLES:

GUEST BOOK:

RECEPTION LINE:
(Who will participate)

GIFTS:

1. People to take gifts to the room
2. When are they opened?

CEREMONY:

1. Are you planning on using traditional vows or are you writing your own? If writing your own, please submit one month prior to wedding date.

2. Entering the Auditorium (arrangements on coming in):

3. Special arrangements?

MUSIC:

1. Organist: _____

Pianist: _____

2. Soloists/Musicians: _____

3. Other musicians: _____

4. Are you and/or the above musicians willing to have music approved by the pastors of F.B.C. at least one month prior to the wedding date?

Yes/No _____

5. Do you agree that your wedding in its entirety, and the music in particular, should emphasize the spiritual aspects of the occasion, reflect your testimonies as Christians and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ? Yes/No _____

Please understand that our purpose is not in any way to hinder the enjoyment of "your day," but only to help you make it a day you will always look back on as the most special day of your lives together and a day when the Lord Jesus Christ Himself would have been happy to be a guest....as indeed He is.

RECEPTION PLANS:

1. Place & Time _____

2. Host/Hostess _____

3. Will a disc jockey be used? _____

If so, whom _____

4. What kind of music will be played or sung?

Sacred _____ Contemporary Christian _____ Easy Listening _____

Country _____ Other _____

5. What entertainment, if any, will there be? _____

Signature of Agreement
First Baptist Church Policy on Marriage and Human Sexuality
Weddings

Applicants for weddings performed by church staff:

1. Applicants wishing to have a ceremony performed by a member of the clergy employed or clergy or judiciary approved by the church or to use the church facilities for their wedding shall affirm the statement of faith regarding marriage and human sexuality and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
2. Applicants shall participate in premarital counseling by clergy or counselors employed by this church or other persons who, in the sole opinion of the pastoral staff of the church have the appropriate training, experience, and spiritual understanding to provide such counseling. All pastoral staff, counselors or other persons providing premarital counseling shall affirm the statement of faith of this church on marriage and human sexuality.

Use of Facilities:

1. Any marriage performed on church premises shall be officiated by an ordained or duly licensed member of the clergy. Any officiant not employed by First Baptist Church shall serve at the discretion of the pastors and elders.
2. Clergy officiating marriage ceremonies on church premises, whether or not employed by the church, shall affirm their agreement with the statement of faith on marriage and human sexuality adopted by this church and conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
3. Clergy and staff assigned by the church to implement the procedures contained in this Marriage Policy may, in his or her discretion, decline to provide church facilities for, and/or decline to officiate at a ceremony when in his or her judgment, there are significant concerns that one or both of the applicants may not be qualified to enter into the sacred bond of marriage for theological, doctrinal, moral or legal reasons.

Groom's Signature

Date

Bride's Signature

Date

Clergy/Officiant Signature

Date
