

Bethany Baptist Church Wedding Policy

Our statement of faith, The Baptist Faith and Message 2000, expresses our fundamental Biblical conviction that marriage is defined as “the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime” (Section 18 of Baptist Faith and Message 2000).

We believe that Scripture teaches that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that Scripture teaches that any form of sexual immorality – such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexuality, incest, bestiality, pornography, any attempt to change one’s sex, or disagreement with one’s biological sex – is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12,14; Leviticus 18:22-23; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-23; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-12; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:22-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

As a local church, we believe that wedding ceremonies on church property are spiritual acts of worship of God who created the institution of marriage. As such, for a wedding ceremony to be performed on church property, the following conditions must be met:

1. No wedding ceremony is to be performed on the property of Bethany Baptist Church (BBC), and no pastor or employee of BBC is to officiate at any wedding ceremony, unless such marriage is consistent with this policy and both the bride and groom agree to these conditions.
2. The wedding ceremony is to be officiated by one or more ordained, or licensed, ministers of the Gospel. If a minister who is not on staff at BBC is desired to officiate at the wedding ceremony, preapproval must be given by the pastors and deacons of BBC.
3. No pastor on staff at BBC will marry a believer in Jesus Christ with an unbeliever.
4. The couple to be married agrees to have at least one premarital counseling session with one of the pastors of BBC.
5. BBC may decline to make its facilities or pastors available for any wedding ceremony if it is determined that one or both of the parties are not biblically and/or legally qualified to marry.
6. BBC reserves the right to refuse the leasing of the facilities for any reason.
7. Neither alcoholic beverages nor any illegal substance are permitted anywhere on church property. Smoking is not allowed anywhere in the church building or near

the front and rear entrances. You are responsible for ensuring that your wedding party and guests comply with this policy.

8. The bride and groom are responsible for securing the property of the wedding party before, during, and after the wedding. BBC will not be responsible for personal property that is lost, stolen, or damaged.
9. BBC is not responsible for any injuries sustained while on church property.
10. No food or beverages are permitted at any time in the sanctuary or hallways (including rehearsal time and wedding day).
11. The wedding party and guests may use only the areas designated for the wedding.
12. Children must be attended by an adult at all times and must remain in the areas designated for the wedding. In the sanctuary, please do not allow children to climb over the pews or to play in or around the stage area or balcony.
13. No tape, tacks, screws, nails, glue, etc., are to be used to affix any décor. No furnishings are to be moved by anyone except BBC staff.
14. Your florist must remove all wedding décor and flowers within 1 (one) hour after the wedding.
15. Confetti cannot be used at any time in or around the church building. Rice and birdseed are not to be thrown inside the church building.
16. Appropriate attire should be worn at all times in the church building.
17. The sanctuary audio-visual equipment is available for use in wedding ceremonies, but must be operated by a preapproved, BBC-trained technician.
18. Appropriate recorded music may be used during a reception in the fellowship hall, but disc jockeys and dancing are not permitted.
19. At least 6 (six) weeks prior to the wedding date, the ceremony is to be placed on the church calendar where regular church functions take precedence. No weddings will be held on the following times: Wednesdays, Sundays, Christmas Eve or Day, and the weekends of Palm Sunday and Easter.
20. Please supply the church office with a photocopy of your wedding invitation and program when they are available.
21. Contact the BBC office 2 (two) weeks prior to the wedding date to verify arrangements and that all fees have been appropriately paid.
22. The exact time indicated for the rehearsal and wedding must be observed. The church building will be available for up to 2 (two) hours for the rehearsal. The building will be opened 3 (three) hours prior to the ceremony and will remain open up to 2 (two) hours after the wedding. Additional time must be arranged in advance and will incur an additional fee.
23. In addition to fees for the use of the facilities, the bride and groom agree to pay for any damage and repair to church property that results from their leasing such.

Wedding ceremonies may be conducted in the sanctuary, which seats approximately 300 people (250 on the main floor, and 50 in the balcony). Receptions may be conducted in the fellowship hall, with a capacity of approximately 125 people.

As part of this agreement, the wedding party will be given a list of fees for the use of facilities and the cleaning that will be necessary for regular church activities to follow. The list of fees provided depends on the relationship of the wedding party to BBC.

I have read and agree to comply with the Wedding Policy of Bethany Baptist Church

(Please sign and return one copy with your application. Retain a second copy for your reference.)

Bride

Date

Groom

Date

This policy may be modified by Church action following the same procedure as Bylaws changes.

Policy adopted and implemented July 20, 2014

Policy modified December 14, 2014