

WEDDING POLICY

First Baptist Church

Caney, Kansas

Approved By the Board of Directors on March 4, 2008

Our congregation desires that your marriage be the happiest relationship possible, and that it be all God intended. Marriage is a gift from God. If you make God a part of your marriage, He will bless your life together.

The Bible gives basic principles which must be understood and applied if we hope to experience lasting joy and fulfillment in marriage. Ignoring these principles will result in frustration and, potentially, ultimate failure in any marriage relationship. First Baptist Church is committed to building strong Christian marriages. We want to provide any couple about to be married with as many biblical principles as possible to help them build a strong marriage.

The church family of the First Baptist Church is pleased to make the facilities of the church available for any wedding and wedding reception in accordance with the following policies of the church:

1. **Christian wedding** - All weddings taking place at First Baptist Church should be Christian in nature. The ceremony, vows, music, and overall atmosphere of the wedding must be consistent with the beliefs and the Bylaws of this church.
2. **Notice** - The Pastor should be advised of the Wedding plans as far in advance as possible. Our experience has shown that it ordinarily requires a minimum of three months to adequately plan and carry out a church wedding.
3. **Officiating** - All weddings at First Baptist Church should ordinarily be conducted by the pastor of this church. No other pastor or minister may conduct weddings at First Baptist Church unless he/she receives prior approval from our pastor and/or from the chair person of the Deacons.
4. **Counseling** - The couple should plan on a minimum of four counseling sessions with the Pastor. These sessions are normally held no more often than once per week. Additional sessions or extenuating circumstances may be discussed.
5. **Charges** - The cost for using the church for weddings and wedding receptions shall consist of three parts: use of the building, custodial fee, and other gratuities in accordance with the church's Use of Building Policy. In addition to the costs and gratuities stated in that policy, those who are

not members (or regular attenders) need to pay a gratuity of \$100 for the pastor.

6. **Use of Building** - The couple must agree to the terms and conditions contained in the church's Use of Building Policy as well as this Wedding Policy in order to use the building for a wedding.

7. **Miscellaneous Provisions**

- a. The property of the Church is the result of generous contributions to it by its members and friends for the glory of God. The building has been dedicated to God. Under no circumstances are the building and equipment to be used in any way disrespectful to God and the beliefs and practices of our church and its membership. When using the building, it is expected that you will help to preserve the property and keep it clean. Users are responsible for property damage caused by their usage and / or the usage of their guests.
- b. Those who use the facility shall not move furniture, hymnals, etc., from their normal location in the building without prior authorization from the Pastor or the Chair person of the Board of Directors. If it is necessary to move furniture, hymnals, etc., from their normal location, the user is expected to replace them to their normal location as soon as the event is over.
- c. If users wish to use candles, only "drip-less" candles may be used. A protective covering must be placed under the candles to prevent wax from dripping onto the floor and/or furniture.
- d. Any decorations which are used must not obscure the emblems of our faith as Christians. The Communion table, pulpit, etc., must stand out if a Christian atmosphere is to prevail to the fullest extent. Decorations must not deface or damage furniture (such as the use of tacks, staples, or tape that harms the finish). The users must remove all decorations immediately after the activity or function.
- e. Rice or confetti are NOT to be used on the premises, inside or outside. Bubbles may be used and bird or grass seed may be thrown OUTSIDE the building, but not on the inside.
- f. Flowers must be in clean, rust-free, leak-proof containers. Please call the office and set up a time for delivery.

- g. Still photographs may be taken during the processional and recessional of weddings, but NOT during the body of the ceremony. If the couple wishes to have the ceremony videotaped, the camera is to be mounted to a tripod and located in an inconspicuous place so that it will not interfere with the service.
- h. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages may be used or served on the church premises. No alcoholic beverages are to be used in the punch or served in any way on the church grounds -- including the parking lot. The users shall make these rules known to those who attend any activity or function at the church.
- i. No smoking is allowed in the building, including the rest rooms.
- j. No food or drinks, other than communion elements, are to be taken into the sanctuary.
- k. Outside groups may not hold dances in the building.
- l. A function or activity should be scheduled to begin no later than 7:00 p.m. and should end no later than 9:00 p.m.
- m. As a general rule, the building is unavailable to outside groups on Sundays without the prior approval of the Pastor and/or Chair person of the Board of Directors.
- n. Church equipment (chairs, tables, etc.) shall not be used away from the church building without the prior consent of the Senior Pastor or the chair person of the Board of Directors. The users must leave a signed receipt in the church office which itemizes the equipment which is being borrowed from the church.
- o. Your event will not be scheduled on the Church Building Use Calendar until your Request For Use Of Building is submitted and approved, AND all fees are paid to the church. If the request for use is not approved, the fees will be returned. Please make the checks payable to First Baptist Church and deliver the check along with the Request For Use of Building to the Church office at 900 South Ridgeway St., Caney, KS 67333.