

Wedding Guidelines at First Baptist Church of Rochester

Revised, October 31; approved by the Church Council, 12/19/05

Revised 10/15/07

Your wedding will be one of the most important days of your life. Marriage is a gift of God, to be celebrated seriously as grounded in faith. The church members and staff of First Baptist Church of Rochester will do all they can to make your wedding meaningful and your marriage lasting.

Approval

It is the policy of First Baptist Church that the pastor must approve all weddings. In the case of weddings officiated by visiting clergy, it is expected that the visiting clergy will contact the pastor of First Baptist Church as a matter of courtesy and to coordinate the implementation of these guidelines.

Counseling

It is expected that all couples will participate in a minimum of three hours of pre-marriage counseling with the pastor or officiating clergy. These sessions will focus upon the personal, interpersonal, and religious commitments of marriage.

Setting the Date

The date for any wedding will be set in consultation with the pastor, the building superintendent, and the office administrator. Date planning will be based on availability of space, the minister's calendar, availability of custodial services, and the need to make advanced arrangements for premarital conferences.

Normally, weddings will not be scheduled on Sundays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or during Holy Week, or after 4:00 p.m. on Saturday.

It is important that the time schedule for the rehearsal and wedding be observed. Care should be taken to see that all members of the wedding party be present at times indicated.

The use of Hubbell Hall for receptions is usually reserved for members of First Baptist Church only.

Music

The wedding is a service of worship. Music should be selected that promotes an atmosphere of sacred reverence and the proclamation of faith. *Popular music, chosen for sentimental reasons, is inappropriate.*

The Director of Music and Church Organist are available to consult for appropriate musical selections, as well as to arrange for soloists, if desired. It is important that such consultations take place well in advance of the wedding date.

It is the policy of First Baptist Church that the Church Organist has the right of first refusal for all weddings. Should the couple request a guest organist, the Church Organist will be paid a consultation fee. In all cases, the Church Organist has the right to charge according to the time involved and the music that is to be prepared. (This policy follows the standard professional guidelines of the American Guild of Organists.)

Decorations

It is the responsibility of the couple to make arrangements for flowers, candles, and other decorations of the sanctuary. Under no circumstances will adhesives or tape be allowed to affix decorations to the walls or pews.

Photography

It is the responsibility of the couple to make arrangements for a photographer and videographer. Professionals hired by the couple must meet with the pastor prior to the wedding ceremony to review these guidelines. Flash pictures may be taken during the processional and the recessional. After the processional and before the recessional only available light photography will be allowed. *At no time will flash pictures be allowed during the ceremony itself.* The couple agrees to communicate this guideline to any wedding guests bringing cameras to the service. Video taping from the balcony is accepted. Additional photographic lighting is discouraged. "Roaming" during the ceremony is not allowed. Any photographer or videographer interfering with the conduct of the ceremony will be asked to leave.

Miscellaneous

No rice may be thrown on church property (bird seed may be used outdoors). Helium balloons are prohibited. The use of alcoholic beverages anywhere on church property at any time is prohibited. First Baptist Church is a non-smoking building. Couples are encouraged to make provisions for the care of small children during the ceremony.

License and Timely Payment of Fees

It is the responsibility of the couple to secure a Marriage License from a local municipality. The license must be given to the officiating clergy no later than the beginning of the wedding rehearsal.

The Sanctuary fee should be paid, as a deposit, at the time of date confirmation. Sanctuary fees include custodial services for the rehearsal and the wedding (four hours; additional custodial hours subject to the hourly rate in the fee schedule) and should be made payable to First Baptist Church of Rochester. The fee for the minister should be paid directly to the officiating clergy. Musician fees should be paid directly to the performer. All fees should be paid prior to the beginning of the wedding rehearsal.

Fees

Sanctuary Fee (non-member weddings)	\$ 500.00
Minister (non-member weddings)	\$ 300.00
Organist (all weddings),	
Consultation, rehearsal, ceremony	\$ 150.00* (see Music section for exception)
Consultation Fee for guest musician	\$ 75.00
Additional rehearsals	\$ 40.00 per rehearsal
Custodian, Member Weddings	\$ 22.50/hour
Reception Fee, Members Only	\$ 75.00

