

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH
WEDDING POLICIES

1. **Who May Marry at the Church:** Members of Tabernacle Baptist Church may use the Sanctuary free of charge at a time agreed upon by the minister and/or Church Office and the marriage couple. Custodial Fees still apply to Members. Guest senior ministers may be invited to participate in the wedding ceremony upon approval of the host Pastor. Non-members may use the sanctuary if sponsored by a church member. (Couple must not be living together.) Anyone marrying at this church must read item "R" of the Constitution and By-Laws and must sign a statement acknowledging they have read and will abide by the Constitution and By-Laws.
2. **Counseling:** All couples must counsel with the Pastor prior to the wedding.
3. **Wedding Music:** All arrangements regarding music should be discussed with the Minister of Music. The Church can usually provide the organist and/or pianist; guest musicians, who are Christians and have a working knowledge of our instruments, may be invited if desired. Guest vocalists may be invited by the couple or will be secured by the Church if available. The musical instruments in the worship center and other locations in the building are under the care and supervision of the Minister of Music and may be used with his/her permission. The sound and video system in the Worship Center has been professionally designed and installed. No additions or changes to the sound system shall be made without the expressed approval of the Minister of Music and Leader of the Sound/Video Technician Ministry Team Leader. Approved changes must be made under the supervision of a member of the Sound Technician Ministry Team or Minister of Music.
****The minister of music must be contacted by the wedding party 30 days prior to the wedding to arrange use of sound and video system. The Sound/Video System is to be operated only by authorized church personnel at the established fee schedule.**
4. **Wedding Director:** A wedding director of the couple's choosing should be selected to assist in the wedding. The wedding ceremony itself is to be in the hands of the minister.
5. **Florists and Decorations:** Church furniture may be arranged with the minister's approval. Tacks, nails, pins, screws, etc. will not be put in the furniture. When candles are used, appropriate coverings will be used on the floor to prevent wax from damaging the carpet. Flower petals will not be dropped on the carpet at any time. (Silk flowers may be used.) Florists will be responsible for the clean up of flowers, boxes, etc. The Wedding Party must give the Church office the name of the florist for the custodian.
6. **Photography:** Flash pictures during a ceremony can be disconcerting to the minister, to the bride and groom, to the wedding guests, and can also detract from the solemnity of the occasion. Therefore, no flash pictures will be allowed during the ceremony. Time exposures, from the balcony, are allowed. A photographer who not abide by this policy will be prohibited from photographing future weddings at this church. Tabernacle has a video ministry which is available to you. Please contact the Church office for further in formation.
7. **Reception and Caterers:** The FLC Gym is available for rehearsal parties and wedding receptions. Appropriate fees from the established fee schedule will be charged and due two weeks prior to the wedding. All silverware, dishes, etc. will be furnished by the wedding party of non-members. Table cloths are available to members. Please call the church office to reserve.
8. **Programs:** The church secretary will type, copy and fold programs for a fee of \$25.00. (Couple must provide bulletins.) Information must be in the office at least one week prior to wedding.
9. **Wedding Setup in Sanctuary:** Some items can be moved, however some items must remain in the sanctuary. The Lord's Supper table, all pulpit style chairs, the pulpit, 4 choir mics, pulpit sound monitors, and 8 individual mics are to be removed and put back in place by the custodians. Any use of the video projection system will need an approved operator to run this during the wedding ceremony.
10. **Non-permissible uses:** Consistent with our doctrines and practices, certain activities are not permitted in any church facility, whether by our own church or others using the facilities. Among these are the following: smoking, consumption of alcoholic beverages, dancing, illegal activities.

Please See Page 5 For Fees

Excerpt from the Constitution and By-Laws

R. Marriage and The Family

This is the policy statement of the beliefs of Tabernacle Baptist Church regarding religious beliefs, concerning marriage, family and human sexuality and our policies based upon the necessary application of our faith to life and practice.

What We Believe About Marriage and Human Sexuality

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. We believe marriage is an act of worship to God.

We believe based on the teaching of the Scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments, that marriage is an institution ordained by God from the foundation of the world, and intended as a lifelong union of one man and one woman. This belief is contained in the account of creation in Genesis chapters 1 and 2. Genesis 1:26-28 provides that God created man in His own image, both male and female. The passage teaches that a unity of one man and one woman is necessary to fully represent the image of God to mankind.

Genesis chapter 2 provides a more detailed account in which God created the first man, Adam, and determined that it was not good for him to be alone (Genesis 2:18). God declared that He would make "a suitable helper for him." God brought all the animals to Adam, but none of them was a suitable helper for him, so God then created Eve, the first woman, from part of Adam himself. God did not create a second man to be Adam's helpmate, or an assortment of multiple women, but rather only one woman. Together they were man and wife and had "no shame" or sin in their union with each other (Genesis 2:15-25).

Jesus Christ reaffirmed the teaching of the Old Testament when He said, as recorded in Matthew 19:4-6, "Haven't you read, He replied, that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female and said for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

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

The Apostle Paul reveals in Ephesians 5:22-32 that marriage is not merely a human institution, but is a holy divine metaphor that illustrates the union of Christ and the church. For this reason also, only a union between a man and a woman can be a proper marriage because a union between two men, two women, or one man and multiple women or any collection of people could not properly illustrate the relationship between Christ and His church.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 condemns a variety of lifestyles including those associated with adultery, prostitution, and homosexuality. The Bible condemns all forms of sexual immorality and encourages Christians to flee from it because of its destructive effects, and because the body of the Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16 & 6:12-20).

Romans 1:18-32 makes it clear that it is not only sinful to engage in homosexual unions, but also to approve of such sins in others or encourage their practice. As a result, in order to maintain our consistent Christian witness, we cannot sanction, approve, or promote in any way adultery, fornication (sexual relationship between an unmarried man and woman; i.e. "living together"), pornography, pedophilia, polygamy, bestiality, or homosexual unions. This is made clear also by countless other verses throughout the Old Testament as well as by these and other passages in the New Testament.

Our church follows what the Bible reveals as the “sure foundation” of the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Apostles (Matthew 7:24-29 and 1 Corinthians 14:37). The church is called to teach and practice these teachings and is not at liberty to depart from them for a different authority if it is to authentically bear the name “Christian.”

Though we strive to live peaceable with all people and to obey legitimate government authority, in instances involving matters as foundational as marriage we must ultimately obey God rather than man if the two come into conflict (Acts 4:18-22).

Sexual activities outside of marriage, including but not limited to fornication, adultery, incest, homosexuality, pedophilia, polygamy and bestiality are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the church. Lewd conduct, transgender behavior, and the creation or distribution or the viewing of pornography are incompatible with God’s intention.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Tabernacle Baptist Church.

Our Faith Based Policy on Marriage and Human Sexuality

As a result of these above described religious beliefs and our belief in the need for a practice of fidelity to these beliefs, it is our policy that the facilities of this church may not be used for any ceremony that in any way approves of, solemnizes, supports or allows a same-sex union or a polygamist or any union which, in the judgment of the church, is inconsistent with our beliefs. It is also the policy of the church that no pastor or member of the church staff shall officiate at any ceremony designed to solemnize, promote, create, or approve of such a union. Nor may any member of the church enter into such a union without being subject to church discipline.

A civil government’s sanction of a union will be recognized by the church as a proper marriage only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of marriage found in this Policy Statement.

Church Practices Derived from This Policy

Clergy

1. Ordained clergy or licensed ministers’ employed by the church shall affirm the statement of faith on marriage and human sexuality adopted by this church.
2. Only ordained or duly licensed clergy approved by this church shall officiate marriage ceremonies conducted on church property.
3. Clergy employed by this church shall be subject to dismissal for violating this statement of faith on marriage and human sexuality or by officiating at a marriage ceremony that violates the letter or the spirit of this policy.

Applicants for Weddings Performed by Church staff:

1. Applicants wishing to have a ceremony performed by a member of the clergy employed by this church or clergy or judiciary approved by this church or to use this church’s 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. Applicants will also sign a statement, stating that they have read and understand the Wedding Policy and will abide by it.
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 this 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 this church premises shall be officiated by an ordained or duly licensed member of the clergy. Any officiant not employed by Tabernacle Baptist Church shall serve at the discretion of the Pastor or Deacons.
2. Clergy officiating marriage ceremonies on church premises, whether or not employed by this 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.

Membership, Leadership and Staff:

1. Every minister and employee, hired by this church shall affirm their agreement with the Tabernacle Baptist Church statement on marriage and human sexuality and conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
2. Church officers will be asked to affirm their agreement with this policy on marriage and human sexuality and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
3. Church leaders, teachers and members are expected to teach and live in a manner that is consistent with this policy.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this Church shall be composed of persons who have given testimony of regeneration by the Spirit of God, who have been baptized by immersion, who have subscribed to the covenant and constitution of this Church, and who have been received into membership by vote of the Church. The Pastor and/or the congregation has the authority to delay or deny presenting a candidate for Church membership based on his concerns with any of the above.

Section 1. Admission

A. Profession of Faith – A person who gives testimony of receiving Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, and indicates a desire to be baptized, shall be received into membership after a Church vote and baptism. It shall be the responsibility of the Church to arrange for baptism in conjunction with the Baptismal Committee in keeping with the teachings of Acts 2:41 and Acts 2:47.

B. By Letter – A member of another church of like faith and order (see *The Baptist Faith and Message*) may be received by vote of the Church and contingent upon receipt of a letter of recommendation from that church.

C. By Statement – A person who has once been a member of a church of like faith and order (see *The Baptist Faith and Message*), but who has no letter of recommendation upon statement of personal faith in Jesus Christ and has been baptized by immersion may be received into Church membership by vote.

Section 2. Dismissal

A. Letters may be granted to any church of like faith and order (see *The Baptist Faith and Message*) for members who have requested a transfer. When letters are granted, membership in this Church shall terminate.

B. When a member of this Church joins another church of a different faith and order (see *The Baptist Faith and Message*), a letter shall not be granted, and membership in this Church shall terminate.

C. The Church, after due notice and opportunity to hear the issue and every possible kindly effort to make such action unnecessary may, upon two-thirds of vote, terminate the membership of a person in this body for reasons it considers sufficient to warrant such action. Matthew 18:15-17 shall be used for direction.

D. Failure to abide by Section “R” of this Constitution and By-Laws will lead to disciplinary action and could lead to dismissal from Tabernacle Baptist Church.

TBC Members (Custodial Fee only)	
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Sanctuary	\$100
Gym	\$75, after 3 hrs. \$25 per hr.
Lobby/Assembly Area	\$50
Kitchen	\$75
Class Rooms	\$50
Kitchenette/Assembly	\$50
Fellowship Hallway	\$50

Non-Members (Facility & Custodial Fee)	
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Sanctuary	\$600
Gym	\$175, after 3 hrs. \$25 per hr.
Lobby/Assembly Area	\$100
Kitchen	\$150
Class Rooms	\$100
Kitchenette/Assembly	\$100
Fellowship Hallway	\$100

Sanctuary (includes rehearsal & wedding),
Kitchen (does not include cleaning of dishes, pots & pans or utensils.)

Accompanist Fees	
Pianist/Organist	\$100
Vocalist	\$50
Sound Technician	\$100
Video Operator	\$50
Video Projection Operator	\$50
Wedding Program	\$25

ACCOMPIANIST FEES
(Members & Non-members)
(Please contact the Minister of Music 30 days prior to the wedding for ALL Pianist/Organist, Sound Technician & Video Technician services.
ALL music selections must be approved by the Minister of Music.)

ALL FEES ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO WEDDING.

Request for Use of Church Facility for Wedding

(Complete and return to Church Office. Fees are due two weeks prior to the wedding)

Personal Information:

Today's Date: _____ **Wedding Date:** _____ **Time:** _____

Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____ Rehearsal Dinner here (Yes or No) Time: _____

Reception here (Yes or No) Time: _____

Person Completing Request: _____

Bride's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Groom's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Minister to perform Ceremony: _____ Phone: _____

Sponsor/TBC Church Member _____ Phone: _____

Areas Needed:

_____ Sanctuary

_____ Nursery

_____ FLC Gym

_____ FLC Kitchen

_____ Class Rooms (Changing Area—To be designated)

_____ FLC Lobby/Assembly

_____ FLC Fellowship Hallway

_____ Kitchenette/Assembly Area (FLC Upstairs)

Will meals/food be served at the Rehearsal? (Yes or No)

If yes, will it be _____ catered _____ pot-luck type _____ prepared on the premises

Will meals/food be served at the Reception? (Yes or No)

If yes, will it be _____ catered _____ pot-luck type _____ prepared on the premises

Supplies or Equipment of Church Requested: (Candelabras, candles, etc.)

Extra Audio/Visual Equipment Needed: (overhead, projector, podium)

Have you contacted the Minister of Music for ALL music and sound arrangements? (Yes or No)

Do you have a Wedding Director? (Yes or No)

If yes, Name of Wedding Director _____ Phone : _____

Signed by Requesting Person:

I have read the attached Wedding Policies with the Excerpt from the Constitution and By-Laws, Section R and on behalf of the wedding party agree to abide by these policies.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

For Office Use:

Fee Paid _____

Request Form, Policies & Guidelines given to: _____

_____ By Hand delivery _____ By Mail _____ By Fax _____ By E-Mail

Request Approved by: _____ Date Approved: _____

Date entered on Master Calendar: _____