

First Baptist Church of Gray Gables Wedding Policies

*“For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be united with his wife”
Genesis 2:24*

1. Due to our understanding of the Biblical and Spiritual significance of the marriage covenant in the context of the local church, we make our church facilities available to **active members of First Baptist Church of Gray Gables only**.

An active member may be defined as, but is not limited to:

- a) One who regularly attends worship services (at least twice a month)
- b) One who regularly attends Sunday school (at least twice a month)
- c) One who is involved in a ministry of the church
- d) One who tithes or gives regularly to the church

2. Weddings are to be performed by the Pastor. We believe the Biblical model of marriage is upheld when the Christian couple is married in their home church by their own Pastor. Because of our Biblical convictions, under **NO** circumstances will any couple be married on Church Property if they are living together. Also, according to our Biblical convictions from 2 Corinthians 6.14-15, we will not host a wedding between a believer unequally yoked to an unbeliever. Furthermore, since the Bible only endorses heterosexual marriages and condemns homosexuality as sin, our Pastoral Staff will not even consider hosting a ceremony of any kind for homosexual couples (Genesis 2:18; Romans 1:18-32).

3. The couple being married **must** complete pre-marital counseling with the Pastor. A completed Pre-Marital Questionnaire **must** be received, reviewed and approved prior to beginning Pre-Marital counseling. Once the Pre-Marital counseling has begun, and approval of the Pastor, a date may be set on the church calendar.

4. The Church Secretary is to be contacted to coordinate and schedule all wedding dates and activities once Pre-Marital counseling has begun and approval is given by the Pastor.

- a) A \$500 refundable deposit is required before a date will be put on a calendar.
- b) No weddings or rehearsals will be held on Sundays, Wednesdays, or holidays.
- c) No Saturday weddings will be performed after 4:00 p.m.

5. The Housekeeper(s) is to be contacted to coordinate set-up and tear-down of the sanctuary, and if applicable, the Fellowship Hall. This consists of:

- a) The stage must be set back up prior to the next meeting to be held in the building.
- b) Decoration of buildings must be discussed and arranged with Housekeeper(s) in advance.
- c) If candles are to be used in the ceremony, they must be shielded, dripless type to avoid getting wax on the carpet. This includes window candles and unity candles.

d) No tacks, nails, tape or other materials that may permanently deface the buildings or furnishings may be used for decorating. **No tape on the sanctuary platform!** Also, no glitter may be used in any area of the campus.

e) These items may not be moved: Choir Loft Chairs, Piano, or Railings.

You may request from the church office the removal of the communion table. However, due to the weight of the table and the possibility of severe injury, the church office will appoint a committee to move the table for you. **DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, MOVE THE TABLE, OR APPOINT OTHERS TO MOVE THE TABLE. ANY ATTEMPT TO MOVE THE TABLE COULD RESULT IN THE TOTAL OR PARTIAL LOSS OF YOUR \$500.00 DEPOSIT.**

f) The Church does not pay the Housekeeping Staff for wedding services. There is a set honorarium of \$150.00 per Housekeeping Staff Member; Two housekeeping Staff members will be working your wedding.

6. The Pastor of Worship is to be contacted to coordinate audio/visual needs.

a) Use of the sound system will require the use of a member of the Audio/Visual team. No one else will be allowed to use the sound system.

b) All videos, pictures, and music must be pre-approved by the Pastor of Worship. This includes prelude, ceremonial, and postlude. Religious music is preferred, but secular music may be considered.

c) Please provide all copies to the Pastor of Worship no fewer than 4 weeks before the ceremony.

7. Please remember that the wedding ceremony is being performed in a church.

a) The members of the wedding party are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times.

b) There is to be **no smoking** on any of the church property.

c) There is to be **no alcoholic beverages** on the church property.

d) Any member of the wedding party who is under the influence of alcohol/drugs will not be permitted to participate in the rehearsal or wedding.

e) **No dancing** will be allowed in the church's buildings and property.

f) The dress of the wedding party is expected to exhibit good taste and Christian modesty.

8. The church is not responsible for personal items such as wedding dresses, wraps, purses, silver and glassware brought to the church for use in a wedding or reception; nor shall the church be liable for such items lost, stolen or damaged.

9. The wedding party is responsible for any damage done to the church facilities by the wedding party and will be deducted from the deposit.

10. If there are any questions about the above guidelines, it is the wedding party's responsibility to address these issues prior to the wedding ceremony.

***It is customary to pay the Accompanists and Sound Technician for their services and an honorarium for the Pastor performing the ceremony.**

Please Sign and Return
To the Church Office

Agreement Pledge

We have read and understand the wedding policy of FBCGG and agree to the terms and conditions contained therein. Further, we understand that if we violate the wedding policies it will result in a full or partial loss of our \$500.00 deposit. This includes the removal of the communion table by someone not appointed by the Church Office:

_____ **(Groom)**

_____ **(Bride)**

Wedding Policy Checklist

I. Initial Stage

_____ - Review & agree with the FBCGG Wedding Policies and sign and return the agreement pledge.

_____ - Submit Pre-Marital Questionnaire to Pastor. Pre-marital Counseling Sessions will be scheduled by the Pastor upon approval.

II. Pre-Martial Counseling Stage

_____ - Once Pre-Martial Counseling has begun and approval of the Pastor given, Contact the church Secretary to schedule ALL Wedding Dates & Activities.

_____ - Submit \$500.00 refundable deposit to Church Office. Deposit is required before date of wedding will be put on Church Calendar.

III. 4 Weeks Prior to Wedding.

_____ - Contact Housekeeping Staff to discuss Wedding Activities.

_____ - Submit all Videos, Pictures, and Music to the Pastor of Worship for Pre-Approval. This includes preludes, ceremony, and postlude.

IV. 2 Weeks Prior to Wedding.

_____ - Submit Housekeeping Honorarium of \$150.00 per Housekeeping Staff Member to the House Keeping Staff. Checks should be made out to Housekeeping Staff Personally, and not the Church.

V. After Wedding Activities.

_____ - Church will be inspected for any damages by Church Staff Members and once approval has been given, deposit check will be returned by Church Secretary.

_____ - Any repairs needed will be communicated to wedding party and subtracted from deposit. Any remaining balance from the deposit will be returned after Church Staff approval.