

FINAL**MARRIAGE & WEDDING POLICY****Article I: MARRIAGE**

- A. This policy provides the criteria for marriages conducted at FBC Edna (the Church), by an FBC Edna Church pastor or other authorized FBC member. Any questions should be directed to the Senior Pastor.
- B. God established marriage as a sacred covenant between one biological man and one biological woman to reflect Christ's relationship with His Church (Eph. 5:21-23). In keeping with biblical teaching, the Church requires the following for any couple seeking to celebrate a marriage at the Church:
 - 1. Faith – Both bride and groom must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 6:14).
 - 2. Celibacy – The engaged couple must live separately before their wedding day. Sexual intimacy is to be celebrated exclusively within marriage (1 Thess. 4:3).
 - 3. Man / Woman Monogamy – Marriage is a sacred union of one biological man and one biological woman. FBC, Edna, does not recognize, nor will it take part in, any ceremony that does not meet these basic criteria (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:4-5).
 - 4. Premarital Counseling – The engaged couple must participate in counseling with the Pastor or his designee prior to the wedding ceremony. Please schedule at least 2-months in advance to allow adequate time for premarital counseling.
 - 5. Church Membership/Attendance – Preferably, either the bride or groom or their parents should be members of the Church and will be given priority in facility use and scheduling.
 - 6. The church may choose to allow its facilities to be used for weddings of members of the community who are not members of the church provided such use is approved in a regular or called Church Conference prior to scheduling the event in accordance with the Church's Facility Use Policy.
- C. Because the Church believes that marriage is designed to be a life-long union, the Church does not take part in remarriages except under the following circumstances:
 - 1. Death – The former spouse is deceased (Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:39).

2. Marital Unfaithfulness – The former spouse committed adultery against the spouse seeking remarriage (Matt. 5: 32, 19:3-9).
 3. Desertion – The spouse seeking remarriage was deserted by an unbelieving spouse (1 Cor. 7:15).
- D. The Pastors, Ministers, and staff of FBC, Edna, shall only officiate weddings and solemnize marriages between one biological man and one biological woman.

Article II: WEDDINGS USING FBC EDNA FACILITIES

- A. All weddings held on Church property must conform to this Church Marriage and Wedding Policy and FBC Edna Facility Use Policy.
- B. Officiants or Ministers not affiliated with FBC Edna must be approved by the senior Pastor of FBC Edna.
- C. FBC Edna reserves the right to deny use of the facilities without explanation.
- D. It is recommended that weddings and rehearsals be scheduled at least three months prior to the wedding date.
- E. The Wedding Use Agreement (ATTACHMENT-1) must be completed before the pre-wedding interview will be scheduled and conducted. The Church has the right not to schedule a wedding in our facility.
- F. An initial pre-wedding interview with one of the church staff members will be required by both members and non-members before the wedding date will officially be put on the church calendar.
- G. If a visiting minister is being used to perform the wedding ceremony, it will be required that the visiting minister contact and discuss the ceremony plans with a staff member of First Baptist Church.
- H. If a visiting minister is being used to perform the ceremony, and no staff member of First Baptist Church is involved with the ceremony, an additional fee may be required for supervisory services.

ATTACHMENT – 1

WEDDING USE AGREEMENT

WEDDING: _____ DATE OF EVENT: _____

I _____ AGREE and AFFIRM that:

1. I understand that the Church does not allow its facilities to be used in a way that conflicts with its faith.
2. To the best of my knowledge, the purpose for which I am requesting use of the Church's facilities will not contradict the Church's faith as stated in the Church's Statement of Faith, and I commit to promptly disclose any potential conflict of which I am aware or become aware of to Church staff.
3. I understand that the Church does not allow its facilities to be generally available to the public, and that my use of these facilities is subject to Pastor approval, which is conditioned in part on my agreement to the requirements in the "Church Facility Use Policy," a copy of which I have read and understand.
4. I understand that upon approval of my facilities use request, I will need to provide a security deposit as defined in the Facility Use Policy and will be obligated for other fees required by the Church.
5. I understand that I will be responsible for any damages to the Church facilities resulting from this proposed use of facilities.

Name _____

Signature _____

Date: _____