



## WEDDING GUIDELINES

We are pleased that you are interested in having your wedding at First Baptist Blowing Rock. A wedding is a joyous and meaningful event in the life of your families and in the life of the church. To assist you in planning your ceremony and to provide for the sacredness of the service, we offer these guidelines and procedures for couples planning a Christian wedding at FBCBR.

1. To schedule your wedding contact the Office Administrator, who, along with the Pastor, will check the church calendar and make a tentative reservation of your date. Church members need to return the application form before a reservation is put on the calendar. Non-members need to return the application and the Church Usage Fee before the reservation is made. Since FBCBR members and their children have priority in scheduling weddings, non-member weddings are not scheduled more than nine months in advance. Please note: only one wedding per-day will be scheduled. Additionally, the church is not available to non-members for receptions or rehearsal dinners.
2. We prefer one of the Pastors from First Baptist Blowing Rock officiate the wedding but we will allow other ministers and pastors to officiate upon approval. If you desire to have another Pastor assist or perform the service, your application for building use must include their name, denomination or religious affiliation, and the church they serve at (if applicable) along with their contact information for approval by our Pastor.

If one of our Pastor's will be officiating, it is the responsibility of the wedding party to make arrangements with the Pastor for counseling appointments with both Bride and Groom in attendance. The Pastor or any other staff member cannot participate in the wedding ceremony without the couple completing these appointments. Part of these meetings will cover the wedding ceremony.

The church has a wedding coordinator that will work with the wedding party on facility set-up and coordination with our Property Manager. This coordinator is not responsible for the order of the service or to be involved in the service itself.

3. All Weddings performed at First Baptist Church of Blowing Rock must be in compliance with Article 3, subsection 10 of our official Church Constitution and By-Laws concerning our stated and published beliefs on Biblical Marriage:
  - a. *"We stand on the Biblical conviction that marriage is, by definition, the physical and spiritual uniting of one man and one woman in an exclusive covenant"*

*commitment for their joint lifetime. Christian Marriage is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church."*

4. Wedding fees for **non-church members**:
  - a. A Church Usage Fee of **\$1,000** will be charged. This fee will include services of the Property Manager, use of the Sanctuary for rehearsal and wedding ceremony, dressing rooms, and bathrooms.
  - b. The Pastor's fee (when using our Pastors) is **\$400**. This fee is to be paid 30 days prior to the wedding.
  - c. If sound and lighting systems will be used there will be a charge of **\$100** for Sound Engineer and sound and lighting set-up.
  - d. If choir railings, choir chairs, or drums are removed from the stage there is an additional fee of **\$100**.
  
5. Wedding fees for **church members** (includes members of the immediate family):
  - a. There will be a **\$100** Church Usage Fee charged. This fee covers the services of the Property Manager, use of the Sanctuary for rehearsal and wedding ceremony, dressing rooms, and bathrooms.
  - b. The Pastor's fee (when applicable) is negotiable upon arrangement with the Pastor. Any fees for their service is to be paid 30 days prior to the wedding.
  - c. Members may use the Fellowship Hall for a reception or rehearsal dinner. There will be an extra **\$100** custodial fee charged per each extra event.
  - d. If sound system will be used there will be a charge of **\$100** for sound engineer.
  - e. If choir railings, choir chairs, or drums are removed from the stage there is an additional fee of **\$100**.
  
6. If reserved parking is needed at the church it is the responsibility of the wedding party to contact the Blowing Rock Police Department to make the necessary arrangements. They can be reached at (828) 295-5210.
  
7. The security of all valuables is the responsibility of the wedding party.
  
8. Pictures may be taken before and after the ceremony but flash photography is not allowed during the service. Photographers are not allowed to go down the aisles to take pictures of the wedding party as they enter the sanctuary. Any professional photographers will need to coordinate with the officiating minister as to their preference for photos taken during the service.

Please inform your guest of our policy. You may wish to include the statement, *"No photographs during the service, please"* in your program.

Videotaping, if done discreetly and approved by the wedding coordinator and Pastor, is allowed. An unmanned camera may be placed on a tripod in the choir loft and left in place during the entire service. The camera is to be turned on 45 minutes before the service

begins and then left alone until the end of the service. Other manned cameras may be mounted in the back of the Worship Center or on the front sides of the Worship Center. No flash or extra lights are to be used during the taping of the wedding service.

Audio, visual taping, and photography during the wedding ceremony must be discussed and coordinated in advance with the Pastor.

9. Your wedding ceremony is a service of worship and special care should be taken to choose music that is suitable. The Pastor must be consulted, and has right of approval, on all music used in the wedding.
10. Arrangements for a pianist, organist, and/or other musicians used for the ceremony is the responsibility of the couple. As such, financial arrangements for and with these musicians is also the responsibility of the couple.
11. The sanctuary will accommodate 350 guests comfortably.
12. The following guidelines must be followed for decorations:
  - a. Birdseed, rice, or glitter are not to be used inside or outside the sanctuary. ONLY BIRDSEED will be thrown outside the building.
  - b. Only dripless and smokeless candles are to be used in the sanctuary.
  - c. Nails, tacks, or scotch tape may not be used in connection with decorations. They may not be used on the pews, choir banisters, stage railings, or window sills.
  - d. Clear plastic must be placed under candles, candelabra or plant containers that could leak.
  - e. Flowers must be in clean, rust-free, leak proof containers.
  - f. Decorations may not be placed on the piano or organ.
  - g. Flowers: The couple is responsible for notifying the florist of these guidelines. Arrangements for decorating the church by the florist should be scheduled with the church office. The church's seasonal floral decorations (for Fall, Christmas and Easter) will remain as placed in the sanctuary and other church areas. Rose petals are allowed by use for the flower girl only.
  - h. All decorations must be removed as soon as the guests have left the building unless the flowers will be left for the Sunday service. If borrowed or rented equipment is used, it is the family's responsibility to see that it is returned immediately after the wedding.
  - i. No alterations to existing outdoor plantings may be made.
13. The use of alcohol and tobacco are not allowed on church property. It is expected that members of the wedding party will not use alcoholic beverages preceding both the rehearsal and the wedding. The bride and groom shall make these rules known to all members of the wedding party.
14. It is best to give the marriage license to the Pastor at the rehearsal. Decide who is to sign

the license and have them come to the Pastor immediately following the wedding ceremony.

15. Matters not covered in these instructions should be worked out in detail with the Office Administrator or Pastor.