

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
3707 Harrisburg Road
Jonesboro, Arkansas
870-935-1950

WEDDING POLICIES

A Christian wedding is a sacred occasion in which you reaffirm your relationship to God and through Him pledge your love to each other. To be meaningful and memorable to you, your friends and families, careful concern and planning are necessary as you come before God to take your vow that will link you together in life. We at Central Baptist Church want your wedding to be a time of genuine worship.

We believe that making Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior is the most important decision that you can make. Another very important decision is choosing the one with whom you will spend the rest of your life in the sacred covenant of marriage. Therefore, the following are necessary in order to have your wedding at Central Baptist Church facilities:

1. BOTH BRIDE AND GROOM ARE CHRISTIANS

Believing that the Bible teaches that Christians are to marry only Christians, we require that both bride and groom individually come to an understanding and acceptance of Christ's sacrificial death. (2 Corinthians 6:14-16; Romans 10:9-10)

2. SEXUAL PURITY

Believing that the sexual relationship has been designed and intended for marriage, we ask that you agree to abstain from any sexual relationship until after the wedding. Furthermore, believing that living arrangements that include cohabitation prior to the wedding is a compromise of your Christian witness, we ask that you agree to separate living arrangements until the wedding. (1 Timothy 4:12)

We believe the term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should occur outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

In order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

Because we believe in the biblical teaching that marriage is between one man and one woman, marriages outside those parameters will not be performed by church ministers or on church property.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. 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 the church.

3. LOCAL CHURCH FAITHFULNESS

Believing that the Church is God's place to grow strong marriages, we ask that you find a place of involvement in a local church and pursue a lifestyle of faithfulness.
(Hebrews 10:19-25)

4. MEMBERS OF CENTRAL BAPTIST

Either the bride or groom or a parent must be a member of Central Baptist Church for at least 3 months prior to the wedding date.

5. MEETING WITH A CENTRAL PASTOR

The bride and groom must have at least one premarital counseling session with one of the Central Baptist Pastors even if he does not officiate the wedding. If a minister will be officiating the wedding who is not on staff at Central Baptist Church, he must be approved by a Central Pastor. The first meeting with the pastor should be at least 2 months prior to the desired wedding date.

6. SETTING THE DATE

The date must be cleared with the church office. **No wedding date will be put on the calendar until the bride and groom have met with a Central Baptist Church pastor and he has approved the use of Central's facilities.** A wedding cannot be scheduled that interferes with the church program. A wedding cannot be scheduled on Sunday. A wedding cannot be scheduled on a holiday weekend or when a holiday is on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday or on the eve of a holiday. There will be only one wedding on any given day. A wedding cannot be scheduled to begin later than 3:00 p.m. on Saturday or 5:00 p.m. if the reception is not being held at Central Baptist Church. Setting the date does not guarantee that a minister will be available. You must contact the minister separately.

A church custodian will be assigned to the wedding/reception. The custodian is to be contacted for any building needs. The custodian is responsible for opening and closing of the building, and the cleaning. The custodian cannot authorize any use of the building not described in this policy.

7. FOOD

There should be no food or drinks anywhere except the kitchen, reception area, or dressing areas. Food and WATER ONLY in the dressing areas.

8. CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Decorating should be done during these times.

9. PLATFORM

Black pipe and drape will be placed in front of the instruments if requested. Special requests to remove anything from the platform will have to be approved on a case-by-case basis. This is due to varied set designs and the availability of approved personnel. At certain times throughout the year, Central pastors and service program personnel develop series and themes including platform décor and other props to enhance the weekend services. Due to the nature, scope, and size of stage decorations during the series and themes, we are unable to remove these for weddings or other

events. This includes the foyer and hallways. Central personnel will work with you as much as possible, but will be unable to clear the platform, foyer, and hallways completely of the series or theme of the worship services for the weekend of your wedding. Extra fees may be required. If there is a request to move the piano, it must be done by approved personnel. The piano is wired for sound and moving it can cause it to go out of tune.

10. MUSIC

The purpose of music in a church wedding is to glorify God; therefore, the wedding music must be appropriate for use in a church. Pastors have the right to disapprove any music. All musicians will be obtained by the wedding party. Due to copyright laws, we will not be able to make copies for you.

Receptions at Central may not include dances.

Music rehearsals should be scheduled before the wedding rehearsal. They should conclude prior to the time of the actual wedding rehearsal.

11. DOORS OPEN

For rehearsal the building will be unlocked 15 minutes before scheduled time. For the wedding, the building will be unlocked two (2) hours before scheduled time. Any other time, including times for the florist, caterer, musicians, and photographer, must be cleared with business administrator.

12. DECORATIONS

All candles used should be enclosed in metal tubes or hurricane chimneys. All candles should be dripleless. (They can be labeled dripleless and still produce wax. Please be alert.) No candles should be placed directly under the microphones in the choir area. Standard candle lighters should be used to light and extinguish all candles. Anything clamped to pew ends must be padded and tape should be used with caution (please use painters tape) so as not to damage wood or paint. Furniture and floors should be protected from moisture. All items must be removed immediately after the ceremony/photography.

13. SOUND

The worship center sound team will be responsible for operating the sound system. **NO ONE** other than church assigned personnel will operate the sound system. The wedding party would need to contact the CHURCH MEDIA DIRECTOR at least three weeks prior to the date. This may require an additional fee.

14. VIDEO PROJECTION /POWERPOINT

The video team will be responsible for operating the video equipment. **NO ONE** other than church assigned personnel will operate the video equipment. The wedding party would need to contact the CHURCH MEDIA DIRECTOR at least three weeks prior to the date. This may require an additional fee.

15. LIGHTING

The lighting team will be responsible for operating the lighting controls. **NO ONE** other than church assigned personnel will operate the lighting equipment. The wedding party would need to contact the CHURCH MEDIA DIRECTOR for assistance. This may require an additional fee.

16. CONDUCT

No loud or inappropriate language will be tolerated. No tobacco is to be used in or near the church buildings. No alcohol products or illegal drugs are allowed on church property. No person is permitted to come to any of the wedding activities at the church under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs. Conduct of participants and guests must be consistent with Central's policies and statement of beliefs.

17. DRESSING AREAS

The bride and attendants will dress in the bridal suite and adjacent room. The groom and other men should dress in rooms 1304-1305.

18. PERSONAL ITEMS

Personal items should not be left lying around. The church is not responsible for personal items such as wedding dresses, tuxedos, purses, jewelry, or any other belongings.

19. RECEPTION/REHEARSAL DINNER

There can be a reception or a rehearsal dinner in the Loft.

Nothing can be attached to the walls, rails, wood, or any surface in any way that would deface them.

The kitchen can be used for food preparation and layout. Use of the appliances can only be done with permission from the business administrator.

The caterer will be responsible for cleaning the area they work in.

20. FACILITIES

Please do not move or remove furniture, equipment, instruments, etc. without approval.

21. RICE, BIRD SEED, CONFETTI, ETC.

There should be no rice, bird seed, confetti, glitter, etc. used. Only silk flower petals may be used in the aisle.

22. PHOTOGRAPHY

All photography should be handled in a dignified and unobtrusive way. There should be no flash pictures during the ceremony. No one should stand on the pews or furniture. All photos taken after the ceremony must be taken within 30 minutes following the conclusion of the ceremony.

23. DRESS

The formality of your wedding is a decision of the bride and groom. All clothing worn by the bridal party in the ceremony should be modest and in keeping with this sacred occasion. Dress for the rehearsal and coming to and from the wedding should be in good taste for the Lord's house.

24. PUNCTUALITY

Rehearsals must begin at the scheduled time and last no longer than 1½ hour.

25. WEDDING CONSULTANT/ DIRECTOR

Each wedding party should have a wedding director/consultant at the rehearsal and the wedding. The name of this person should be given to and approved by the pastor that is conducting the ceremony. If there is a guest minister, this information should be given to the pastor who did the initial counseling.

26. Guiding Considerations

- (1) Remember the church has to do its work before, during, and after your wedding.
- (2) Weddings in this church are considered a sacred service as well as a legal ceremony. This sacred nature should govern all wedding plans, the selection of music, and the nature of both the wedding and reception, as well as the conduct of all the participants and guests.
- (3) The desires of the bride are considered in making plans for the wedding, but the pastor's discretion is observed in weddings held in this church. This remains true even when the service of a wedding consultant is engaged.
- (4) A pastor of Central Baptist Church will be the final authority and decision maker regarding the application of these policies.

27. WEDDING FEES

(1) USE OF BUILDINGS (covers custodial services and opening and closing of buildings)

\$200.00	Rehearsal and wedding
\$200.00	Rehearsal dinner
\$200.00	Reception

(2) SOUND

\$150.00 - This fee provides a sound technician for the operation of the sound system during the rehearsal and wedding. All music for the wedding should be placed onto a CD in the order of the service.
\$50.00 - This fee would provide for the sound technician placing the music on one CD if the wedding party could not do it.
\$50.00 - This fee would provide for sound (background music or PA microphone) in the Loft (reception).
All copyright laws must be followed regarding recordings and music.

(3) LIGHTING

NONE - There would be no fee if there was only one standard light setting with no changes.
\$150.00 - This fee covers one person to dim/change light settings at the rehearsal and wedding.
\$50.00/hour - This fee covers the use of spot lights.

(4) VIDEO PROJECTION/POWER POINT

\$150.00 - This provides for an individual to operate the equipment to project images on the big screens.

(5) MUSICIANS

The church does not provide any musicians. It is the responsibility of the wedding party to reimburse the musicians for their time. The church does not provide any instruments. The wedding party should check with a Worship Pastor regarding the use of instruments other than the piano or organ.

(6) MINISTERS

Ministers do not charge for officiating at a wedding; however, it is the custom for the groom to give the minister a monetary gift.

All fees (except musicians and ministers) should be paid to Central Baptist Church two (2) weeks prior to date of wedding.

Extra fees will be required for special requests.

We agree and will abide by all the above Central Baptist Church Wedding Policies:

Bride

Date

Groom

Date

If you agree with the *Central Baptist Church Wedding Policies*, continue to the *Wedding Questionnaire*.