

# Enon Baptist Church Wedding Policy

One of the most beautiful and sacred ceremonies of the church is the marriage service. It is our desire for a wedding to be the most wonderful experience possible and for it to be all God has designed it to be. We believe strong families are built on the unity of husband and wife. We believe marriage is the union of a man and woman becoming one. We agree to do everything in our power to enhance and protect the marriages of our members and if all possible to do the same for those married here.

## Our Policy

1. Covenant agreement: In view of the significance of Christian marriages, we emphasize that marriage is not a contract but a covenant relationship between husband (man) and wife (woman). The marriage ceremony pictures the covenant relationship between Christ (groom) and His church (bride).

We affirm our belief in:

- A. Heterosexual marriage (Genesis 2:24)
- B. Abstinence outside marriage (1 Corinthians 6: 13-18)
- C. Faithfulness to one's spouse (Hebrews 13:4)
- D. Our body as a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19)

2. Counseling: In view of the tremendous importance of marriage, we insist all couples attend a series of pre-marital counseling sessions by our pastor or presiding pastor. Weddings should not be performed for those non-willing to fulfill the desires of our church family.

The following include a series of topics that should be, but not limited to, discussed during counseling sessions:

- A. Parental Consent: In view of God's command to honor and obey parents and not to forsake their counsel, our church family will be opposed to any marriage covenant unless parents of both parties are in full agreement. (Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 6:20, 23:22; 20:17)
- B. Premarital relations: It is our desire for couples living together to separate and remain abstinent until marriage. (1 Corinthians 6:13-20; Ephesians 5:3)
- C. Pre-marital pregnancy: In these situations, the ceremony may or may not be performed depending on the maturity of the persons involved and other considerations. The final decision to perform the ceremony will be determined by the officiating pastor. However, the visiting pastor should secure the blessings of our senior pastor or deacon leadership.
- D. Non-Christians: The church family urges our pastor to use great spiritual discernment concerning these marriages. Biblical passages such as 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 1 Corinthians 7 and others should always be considered in these decisions.
- E. Divorce: The pastor may consider his blessing upon remarriage where (when) a biblically allowed divorce has occurred, (Matthew 5:31-32; 1 Corinthians 7:13-16). A minimum of 12 months should have elapsed since the divorce became final. In situations where one or both parties have been

divorced the pastor asked to perform the ceremony must decide, in light of scripture, whether or not to perform the ceremony.

- F. Music: We believe the atmosphere of the ceremony is established by the Holy Spirit and the expression of music. Approval of music, visiting musicians, or other compliments to the marriage celebration should be approved by our pastor or others appointed to such privileges.
- G. Scheduling and procedures: Those requesting usage of sanctuary, Family Life Center or church grounds should contact the pastor or church office. A guide for such planning will express the wishes of our church.
- H. Officiating: Ceremonies held in our facilities will be conducted by a pastor from our church. Guest pastors may participate or conduct the entire service with approval of our senior pastor.
- I. All photography options should be approved and/or discussed during the pastor counseling sessions.

Conclusion: We give discretion to our pastor in accepting or declining invitations to officiate any wedding ceremony. In rare and extremely difficult request, the pastor is privileged to consult with church leadership for direction.

## **WEDDING PLANNING**

Couples who plan to marry in The Enon Sanctuary need to reserve early! They also need at least (1) appointment with the Pastor, early in the planning process for their wedding to go over matters that need to be coordinated between the wedding party and church. This meeting needs to take place regardless of who will be the officiating minister in the wedding.

CLEANING SERVICE HAS INFORMED THE CHURCH THAT THEY MUST BE NOTIFIED ONE (1) MONTH BEFORE YOUR WEDDING IF THEY ARE TO CLEAN AFTERWARDS. Contact The Cleaning Service at 336-469-3782.

If you would like the Pastor to officiate in your wedding ceremony:

1. Let the Pastor know early.
2. Make an appointment to coordinate your wedding plans in accordance with the guidelines of the church.
3. Plan to have at least two to four Pre-Marital Counseling Sessions with the Pastor.
4. A "Wedding Plan Sheet" is available to help guide those who will be married in the Enon Sanctuary. Copies are available in the Pastor's Office.

## **ENON BAPTIST CHURCH WEDDING PLAN SHEET**

Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Groom \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Rehearsal Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Place if other than EBC \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Place if other than EBC \_\_\_\_\_

Will Family Life Center be used for Rehearsal Dinner? \_\_\_\_\_

Reception \_\_\_\_\_

Officiating Minister \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Director \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In charge of "clean up" \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In charge of Furniture Movement \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Caterer \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Florist \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING SESSION**

(At two to four sessions are required if current Pastor is the primary Minister for the Wedding)

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

## **RESPONSIBILITY AGREEMENT**

I understand that **drinking and use of alcoholic beverages** on the EBC property is prohibited and that smoking is not permitted inside the building.

I assume full responsibility for any damages that may occur during the use of the facilities of Enon Baptist Church for my wedding. This responsibility may include, but is not limited to reimbursement expenses to replace, or repair sound system equipment, furniture, or other materials belonging to the church.

I further agree to contact Enon Baptist Church Personnel Committee, who, in turn, will contact The Cleaning Service 30 days in advance of my wedding, to let them know they will be contracted for clean up immediately following my wedding.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **MUSICIANS**

Church musicians are available as their schedule permits, but they are not compensated by the church for services rendered in a wedding. A fee for services should be negotiated early in the wedding planning directly with the musicians, soloists, etc., you plan to use. Non-members musicians may contact the Minister of Music to make sure the instruments are unlocked and available.

***All music (including words) must be approved by the pastor prior to the wedding.***

**To get doors unlocked, heat or A/C turned on, call a deacon.**

## **FURNITURE MOVEMENT**

Furniture moved should be put back as you found it. Be advised that microphones are very expensive and delicate. The bride and groom will be expected to replace any furniture or equipment damaged by members of the wedding party.

If you use the Custodial Service – after the wedding they will:

1. Put all furniture back in the Sanctuary.
2. Make sure choir loft and sanctuary are in order for Sunday worship.
3. Check over Family Life Center, kitchen and arrange as needed. Since present guidelines call for reserving parties to leave facilities as they were found, there should be no need for cleaning in these areas.
4. The phone number of The Cleaning Service: Nada Hepler at 336-469-3782.

**NOTES**

Maid of Honor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Best Man \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Florist \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Caterer \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

