

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 a woman making them one. We agree to do everything in our power to enhance and protect the marriages of our members and, if at 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 is 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 of 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 the pastor presiding over the ceremony. Weddings should not be performed for those unwilling to fulfill the desires of our church family.

The following include a series of topics that should be, but is 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; Proverbs 23:22; Proverbs 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, a 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 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 that 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 celebrations should be approved by our pastor or others appointed to such privileges.

G. Scheduling and procedures: Those requesting usage of the 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 the approval of our pastor.

I. Photography: 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 requests, the pastor is privileged to consult with church leadership for direction.

WEDDING PLANNING

Couples who plan to marry in the Enon Baptist Church sanctuary need to reserve early! They also need at least one 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 the church. This meeting needs to take place regardless of who will be the officiating minister in the wedding.

If you would like an Enon pastor to officiate 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 2-4 pre-marital counseling sessions with the pastor.
4. A "Wedding Planning 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 PLANNING SHEET

Bride: _____ Phone: _____

Groom: _____ Phone: _____

Maid of Honor: _____ Phone: _____

Best Man: _____ 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: Yes _____ No _____

Reception: _____

Officiating Minister: _____ Phone: _____

Wedding Director: _____ Phone: _____

Person in charge of "clean up": _____ Phone: _____

Person in charge of furniture movement: _____ Phone: _____

Caterer: _____ Phone: _____

Florist: _____ Phone: _____

Photographer: _____ Phone: _____

PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING SESSIONS

(At least 2-4 sessions are required if current Enon pastor is the primary officiating minister for the wedding.)

Date/time: _____ Date/time: _____

Date/time: _____ Date/time: _____

RESPONSIBILITY AGREEMENT

I understand that the **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 any other materials belonging to the church.

I further agree to contact Enon Baptist Church Personnel Committee, who, in turn, will contact their janitorial service, 30 days in advance of my wedding to let them know that 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 service rendered in a wedding. A fee for services should be negotiated early in the wedding planning process directly with the musicians, soloists, etc., if you plan to use them. Non-member musicians may contact the Minister of Music or Music Director to make sure the instruments are unlocked and available for use.

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

To get doors unlocked, heat or air-conditioning turned on, please call a church 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 church's 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 the Family Life Center and kitchen and arrange them 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.