

## **First Baptist Church WEDDING GUIDELINES**

1. **Only Christian weddings will be performed** at First Baptist Church of Manassas. The couple is expected to be declared Christians and committed to Christ and to the principles of Christian marriage. **We hold to the biblical interpretation and Christian theology that Christian marriage is exclusively a sacred union between one man and one woman into holy matrimony.**
2. Completed applications for wedding ceremony dates must be a **minimum of four (4) months prior** to the requested date of the wedding ceremony.
3. No weddings are to be scheduled on Sundays or to begin after 5:00pm on Saturdays. Holidays are to be exceptions and rarely approved.
4. All couples (member or non-member) desiring to be married at First Baptist Church of Manassas must attend **pre-marital counseling** with a member of the church's pastoral staff or provide confirmation (and a contact) that premarital counseling will or has been completed by a Christian minister outside of First Baptist Church of Manassas prior to the wedding ceremony.
5. If a couple's application is denied, the denial and reasons thereof, shall be reported to the Pastor as soon as possible.
6. A couple may request any ordained minister of our church to marry them, with Pastor approval.
7. A couple must have been **dating for a minimum of six months** prior to the wedding date in order to be married at our church.
8. No remarriages after divorce will be performed until at least **one year has passed** from the finalization of the divorce decree.
9. No wedding will be calendared until the couple has an initial conference with the Pastor, designated pastoral staff associate performing the wedding, or confirmation that such couple has met with the approved outside Christian minister to perform the wedding.
10. Because of the high volume of demands for the facilities of our church, members of the church and/or their immediate families have priority usage of church dates, times, and facility usage.
11. Members and Nonmembers may use the church facilities for Christian weddings upon approval of the appropriate church officers (Church Clerk, Trustees, Pastor, etc.).

***First Baptist Church, Manassas, Virginia***

12. Christian clergy, other than our church's pastoral staff, may participate in weddings held at the church, upon approval by the Pastor. The non-member minister(s) must speak directly with the Pastor. The scheduled wedding date is tentative until this process has been completed.
13. While no Honorarium is required for members of the church for the Pastor, it is customary to provide the Pastor (if performing the wedding ceremony) with a monetary gift. Pastoral Staff members set their own honorariums with couples. Honorarium gifts are given directly to the Pastor or minister.
14. There may be additional fees for use of the church facilities and/or church Media equipment. Couples must contact the church office to inquire into any additional fees after an initial pre-marital conference with the Pastor or pastoral staff.

*First Baptist Church, Manassas, Virginia*  
**First Baptist Church**  
**WEDDING APPLICATION FORM**  
Wedding Information

Wedding Date Requested \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Rehearsal Date Requested \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Bride \_\_\_\_\_ FBC Member? \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Address \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Groom \_\_\_\_\_ FBC Member? \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Address \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address after Marriage (if known)  
\_\_\_\_\_

First Marriage: Bride? \_\_\_\_\_ Groom? \_\_\_\_\_

Minister to Perform Wedding Ceremony (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer/Videographer (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Organist/Pianist (if known) \_\_\_\_\_ Soloist(s) (If known) \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: \*All secular songs must be approved a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the wedding ceremony by the Pastor.**

Will there be a church reception? \_\_\_\_\_

***We agree to comply with all of the guidelines for marriage in this church, including any fees, rules and regulations required by the Trustees of this church.***

Bride's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Please Do Not Complete Items Below\*\***

Received by First Baptist on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time of Initial Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_; Date Approved by Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved by Church Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

***Return Completed Application to the Church Office***

**Prelude**

**Seating of Mothers/Grandmothers**

**Entrance of the Groom, Best Man & Clergy**

**Processional**

**Entrance of the Bride**

**Call to Celebration**

**Reading of Scripture**

**Prayer**

**Song Selection**

**Presentation of the Bride**

**The Wedding Charge**

**The Statement of Marriage**

**Exchange of Wedding Vows**

**Blessing and Exchange of Wedding Rings**

**Song Selection**

**Lighting of Unity Candle**

**Blessing and Pronouncement of Marriage**

**Benediction**

**Presentation of Bride and Groom as Husband & Wife**

**Recessional**

\*Order of Ceremony can be altered with approval of Pastor or clergy performing ceremony