

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH
23875 Highway Forty-Seven
South Hill, Virginia 23970
434-865-9223

WEDDING POLICIES

Last Amended December 7, 2014

Tabernacle Baptist Church is happy to assist you in the planning of your wedding. The marriage ceremony is a service of worship. The following information is given to help you determine if our facilities will meet your needs.

Marriage is a union ordained by God. It was first instituted by God in the early chapters of Genesis and codified in the Levitical law. The Old Testament prophets compared it to a relationship between God and His people. Examples found in the historical narratives and the wisdom literature discuss the unique unity of this relationship. Jesus explained the original intention and core elements of marriage and several New Testament Epistles give explicit instructions of this union. Marriage is a typology of Christ and the Church. As such, the Church views marriage as a profound spiritual institution established by God. Due to the importance of marriage in the biblical witness, the church adopts the following policy:

Therefore, we believe that the term marriage has only one meaning and by definition is a 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 occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in, outside of a marriage, between a man and a woman.

Therefore, Tabernacle Baptist Church of South Hill, Virginia will only conduct weddings on the basis of a union between one man and one woman to each other.

All buildings and grounds that belong to the church will be used solely for this purpose.

The Sanctuary will hold approximately 150 people. The fellowship hall will hold approximately 100 people.

Reserving the Church

It is very important to reserve the church early in the planning of your wedding. You will need to first check with the Pastor to determine the availability of the church. He will then refer you to a member of the Wedding Committee (Hostess) who will arrange to meet with you personally to discuss the policies and show you the facilities.

When you meet with the Hostess, you will be given a Reservation Form to complete and return to the Hostess with at least \$100 of the refundable reservation fee (see below for total amount). The reservation fee will be returned after the event once the Wedding Committee inspects the facilities and finds no damages.

Fee Schedule

The refundable reservation fee is:

Member of Tabernacle Baptist Church	No fee
Immediate family* of Member of Tabernacle Baptist Church	No fee
Sanctuary Only	\$150
Fellowship hall only	\$150
Both facilities	\$300

(*immediate family is defined as the spouse of a member, parent of a member or the child or grandchildren of a member)

The remaining refundable reservation fee will be due and payable thirty days prior to your wedding date. The check should be payable to Tabernacle Baptist Church and delivered either personally to the Hostess or mailed to the church at the address above.

The fees do not include an honorarium for the Pastor.

The Pastor

The Pastor of the church normally performs the wedding ceremony. You will need to contact the pastor to make arrangement to meet with him to discuss your wedding plans and to arrange for pre-marriage counseling.

If you want another pastor to either perform or to assist in the ceremony, please have him/her contact our pastor directly.

The officiating pastor will direct the wedding rehearsal.

The Hostess

The Hostess will meet with you for a walk through of the facilities and will show you which Sunday school rooms are available for your use prior to the wedding.

The heating and air conditioning system is preset. The hostess will make arrangements to adjust the temperature. Please do not try to adjust the thermostats.

Rehearsal

Reservations for the rehearsal should be made when you reserve the church for the wedding.

The officiating pastor will direct the rehearsal. The rehearsal should begin on time and all members of the wedding party are encouraged to attend.

Smoking Prohibited

Smoking is not allowed any where inside the church or fellowship hall. Smoking is allowed in the parking lot and cigarette butts are your responsibility as part of the clean up. Also, no alcoholic beverages or drugs are allowed on the church premises (including the parking area). No one should be allowed on the premises if they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Decorations

You are welcome to decorate the sanctuary and fellowship hall. However, no tape, tacks, glue, or nails should be used on the walls, wood framework, or furniture.

If candles are used during the ceremony, care must be taken that no “drips” will get on the floor, carpet, or windowsills.

If flower petals are used, an aisle runner must be used on the center aisle. If silk petals are used, an aisle runner is not necessary.

You may remove any of the furniture in the sanctuary (except for the piano and organ). However, any items removed or rearranged must be returned to their proper place. This includes any music books taken from the piano and organ.

Music

It will be the responsibility of the couple to arrange for the musician. The music in the ceremony should be in keeping with the dignity and sacredness of a worship service. No extremely loud music is allowed. Any music in the fellowship hall must follow the same rules.

Photography

Photography should be done in good taste to avoid any disruption during the ceremony. At the request of the Pastor, no flash photography is allowed during the ceremony.

If you plan to video tape the ceremony, the camera may be set up either in the choir loft or in the back of the church.

Clean-up

The person reserving the facilities is responsible for the clean-up after the ceremony.

All decoration in the sanctuary and fellowship hall must be taken down and removed from the premises, and all furniture and other items returned to their proper place.

Floors in the sanctuary and the back of the church are to be vacuumed and the restrooms cleaned.

All trash, including cigarette butts in the parking lot, is to be collected and removed from the premises.

Fellowship Hall

You are welcome to use the fellowship hall for your after-rehearsal dinner and/or the reception.

You must supply your own plates, cups, eating utensils, napkins, and tablecloths as the ones at the church are for church use only.

Any leftover food must be removed. You must also supply your own containers as there are none at the church.

The floors in the kitchen and fellowship hall must be vacuumed and mopped.

Miscellaneous

Rice or confetti is not permitted inside or outside of the facilities. Birdseed and bubbles are allowed outside.

The church is not responsible for any wedding gifts or personal items left anywhere in the church.

It is the responsibility of the wedding party to return any borrowed items brought to the church.

It is the responsibility of the couple to arrange for a trained individual to use the sound system.

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH
APPLICATION FOR USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES

Applicant _____ Phone #s _____ / _____
Work/cell Home

Address _____

_____ Email Address _____

Desired Date and Times:

Rehearsal _____

Wedding _____

Minister Officiating _____ Phone # _____

Facilities Desired: _____

Wedding Party Information

Bride _____ Phone # _____

Bride's Parents _____ Phone # _____

Groom _____ Phone # _____

Groom's Parents _____ Phone # _____

Refundable Reservation Fees:

Sanctuary only _____

Fellowship Hall only _____

Total Fees \$ _____

Amount Paid - _____

Amount Due \$ _____ Payment in full is due _____

I/We agree to comply with the church rules and regulations and will take full responsibility for the care of the facilities. (Any damages that occur will be the financial responsibility of the couple.) I/We understand that Tabernacle Baptist Church is not responsible for the loss of damage to personal property used during the wedding or reception.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____