

BERKELEY AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
WEDDING POLICIES
January 22, 2012

Statement Of Policy:

Christian marriage, because it is sacred, deserves considerable thought and prayer. The Church is the proper place and setting for a Christian marriage. The pastor of the Church is the Biblical advisor in what the responsibilities and obligations of a Christian marriage involves. Therefore, it will be necessary for those couples desiring to be married at Berkeley Avenue Baptist Church to schedule a conference with the pastor. The pastor has considerable experience with weddings and is very helpful in the planning stages of your wedding, as well as in the more important consideration of the meaning and requirements of marriage. (Please refer to the attached policies of Rev. Fred Bueto).

Procedures:

Making Reservations

Applications for use of the Berkeley Avenue Baptist facilities will be made with the Church Wedding Coordinator by completing the Wedding Arrangement Form. All fees are due at the time the reservations are made. Dates will not be calendared until all fees are paid.

There are operating costs to the church to have your wedding here and those expenses are passed on to you. We will distribute the money on your behalf to cover the operating expenses.

The reception fee is in addition to the general wedding fee if reception is held on our premises. It covers expenses for custodians, utilities and maintenance of the building.

General Wedding Fee

| | Members | Non-Members |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Church | \$0 | \$300.00 |
| Wedding Facility Coordinator | \$100.00 | \$100.00 |
| Custodian | \$75.00 | \$75.00 |
| Utilities | \$75.00 | \$75.00 |
| Pastor | \$100.00 or more recommended | \$300.00 |
| Sound Technician | \$100.00 | \$100.00 |

General Reception Fee

| | Members | Non-Members |
|-------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Reception – Fellowship Hall | \$0 | \$300.00 |
| Breakage Deposit (refundable) | \$100.00 | \$100.00 |
| Custodian | \$75.00 | \$75.00 |
| Utilities | \$75.00 | \$75.00 |
| Sound Technician | \$100.00 | \$100.00 |

We are glad to arrange for the musicians, if you wish. The honorarium for them is \$100.00 each. You must pay these fees in advance and we will distribute the money. All monies will be deposited to the Wedding Account and will be administered by the Pastor and treated as a discretionary account.

You may arrange for your own musicians and pay them directly.

Policy:

Christian marriage is for Christian believers. The Church is a Christian institution and reserves the right to refuse use of the church to any person. Berkeley Avenue Baptist will not use its facilities to marry persons of the same gender.

The Church will make available such furnishings as it owns.

NO DRINKING OF ALCOHOLIC OR INTOXICATING BEVERAGES will be allowed at the weddings, rehearsal, reception, or on the church property. People under the influence of alcohol will be asked to leave.

Smoking is not allowed in any of the church buildings or on the church property.

Rice may not be thrown.

Any activity continuing after 5:00 p.m. on Saturday will require an additional \$50.00 for custodian.

In case of a standup wedding (which consists of the couple, Pastor and witnesses), fee will be adjusted.

WEDDING POLICIES OF REV. FRED BUETO

In my opinion your wedding day is the 3rd most important day of your life. The first two being your birth and your decision to trust Christ as Savior. Wedding vows are made before God and are not to be taken lightly; therefore, I take my responsibility to prepare couples for marriage very seriously.

The policy below is not a policy of the church I serve in, but one that I have set for myself as I understand the importance of marriage, scripture and practical practices.

Please read the following paragraphs together, sign the agreement, and return it to me.

A. I will not marry couples who have not been through pre-marriage counseling. It doesn't have to be done by me, but it needs to be done. There are issues that can be handled easier if they are discussed prior to the wedding. I can conduct this counseling in person or through computer video via SKYPE or something similar. I do not charge for this counseling. I am available during the day Monday through Thursday (9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.) and on Sunday afternoons (1:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.). The counseling topics are divided into 3 one hour sessions, if necessary, we can combine the sessions.

1. The sessions cover such topics as communication skills, budgeting, goal setting, the role of in-laws, the spiritual life, the roles of the wife and husband, protecting your marriage, and planning the ceremony.

2. All of the sessions I conduct are with the couple meeting together. However, if you wish to have a one on one meeting to discuss personal issues I will be happy to meet with you. I am a pastoral counselor, not a professional licensed counselor, so if I sense that there are some issues which should be addressed by a professional I will make that recommendation.

B. I will not marry a Christian person to a person of another religion. This principle is based on scripture (2 Corinthians 6:14) and practically is terrible on the development of future children. I also will not marry two people of the same gender.

C. If you are living together and/or sleeping together, I will recommend that you separate from each other until your wedding day. I insist on this for 3 reasons . . .

1. According to scripture, sex was created by God for husband and wife to enjoy after marriage.

2. Statistics show that people who live together before marriage are more likely to divorce than those who move in together after they are wed.

3. Marriage is an important decision. It is hard to evaluate your partner if you are already living together. There needs to be some time that the couple is not together so they can each evaluate their desire to move forward. Besides that, having sex before marriage creates an “I owe it to them” (meaning “I must marry them”) feeling that can cause a poor decision to be made.

D. Many people ask what they should pay me for doing the ceremony. So here are my guidelines...

If you are not a regular attendee of the church I pastor my fee is a minimum of \$200.00 plus traveling expenses including gas, and hotel.

If you are a regular attendee of the church I pastor, there is no set amount. (Most people give about \$100-\$200) and reimburse travel expenses if the wedding is out of town.

We have read this policy from Rev. Fred Bueto and agree to all the terms stated above.

Signature of Groom

Signature of Bride

**BERKELEY AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
WEDDING REQUEST FORM**

Date Requested _____ Time _____

Bride's Name _____ Church Member _____

Address _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Groom's Name _____ Church Member _____

Address _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Minister's Name _____

If Guest Minister – Address _____ Phone _____

Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____

Sanctuary Required _____

Reception Time _____ to _____

Rooms Required for Reception _____

Musicians Names _____

If Guest Musicians – Address _____ Phone _____

Florist _____ Phone _____

Photographer _____ Phone _____

Caterer _____ Phone _____

Fees Applied

General Wedding Fee

| | Members | Non-Members | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| Church | \$0 | \$300.00 | _____ |
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| Custodian | \$75.00 | \$75.00 | _____ |
| Utilities | \$75.00 | \$75.00 | _____ |
| Pastor | \$100.00 or more recommended | \$300.00 | _____ |
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| Custodian | \$75.00 | \$75.00 | _____ |
| Utilities | \$75.00 | \$75.00 | _____ |
| Sound Technician | \$100.00 | \$100.00 | _____ |
| | | TOTAL | _____ |

We agree to comply with church rules and regulations regarding church weddings and church receptions. We understand that the church is not responsible for the loss or damage to personal property used in the wedding or reception.

Bride _____

Groom _____

Note: Date of wedding will not be confirmed until this form is returned to the church office with correct deposits.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____