



# Preparing for Your Wedding

**Congratulations** on your engagement! This is an exciting time of anticipation and planning for you! We are pleased that you are considering First Baptist Church for your wedding ceremony. A wedding service is actually a worship service — a couple's declaration before God and the community of faith that they are committed to each other and seeking God's blessing of their union. The ceremony is comprised of prayers, Scripture and music.

## Begin Early

Your marriage is important to us and deserves careful planning and preparation. Your first step is to contact the Wedding Coordinator to book a date, secured with an initial deposit of **\$500**. Weddings must be booked at least three months in advance to allow time for premarital counseling.

## Your Wedding Coordinator

Your first point of contact is the Wedding Coordinator, who will assist you through the entire planning process. Contact Laura Preston at 216-408-3502 or by email at [lp Preston727@yahoo.com](mailto:lp Preston727@yahoo.com)

Laura is available to you from your initial inquiry to the moment you leave the church on your wedding day. She is the link between your wedding party and the church. She will help you with booking choosing vendors, and planning a timeline for your wedding day. She will also guide the wedding rehearsal.

## Your Wedding Timeline

### Rehearsal

A rehearsal is a necessity to familiarize your wedding party with the ceremony. The rehearsal is usually scheduled for the day prior to the wedding, and typically lasts for one hour. The minister, wedding coordinator, musicians and custodian are all present at the rehearsal.

### The Wedding Day

Because other weddings may be scheduled the same day as yours, each couple will have use of the church for four hours on the day of the wedding. This includes time for decorating, photographs, the ceremony and receiving line. Couples who exceed a four hour time frame will incur additional charges.

### Wedding Bulletin

The wedding coordinator will prepare your wedding program, if desired. The bride and groom are expected to provide the bulletin paper or covers at the final meeting.

### Rehearsal Dinner/Reception

You may want to consider using the church as the location for your rehearsal dinner or reception. There are several rooms to choose from that are available to you (at an additional cost). In order to use our commercial kitchen, the church chef must be present. She would be happy to meet with you to discuss planning a delicious meal for your guests. A per-plate price can be decided on once you have made your selections.

Initial Deposit to reserve wedding date	\$500.00 *
Use of Church	\$750.00 *
Minister	\$350.00 *
Wedding Coordinator	\$250.00 *
Sound Technician	\$100.00



Organist/Pianist	\$200.00
Soloist	\$150.00
Custodian (Set-up, clean up and basic sound system)	\$125.00 *
Candelabras	\$25 per pair

### \*REQUIRED FEES

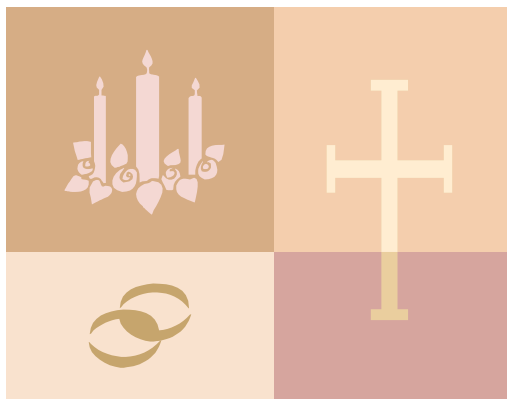
All fees are due 30 business days prior to your wedding and should be given to the wedding coordinator. Your deposit will be refunded if you cancel your wedding.

## *Suggestions and Expectations for a Stress-Free Wedding*

- ✿ A marriage license must be obtained by the couple within 30 days prior to the wedding.
- ✿ A member of First Baptist Church's ministerial staff will officiate at your wedding. If you have another ordained Christian minister you would like to include as part of your ceremony, we will be glad to accommodate your request.
- ✿ To fully prepare each couple for marriage, a program of pre-marital counseling approved by the officiating minister is required for all couples.
- ✿ The minister officiating at your ceremony will be selected according to their availability.
- ✿ Ceremonies at FBC will reflect each couple's style and personality, woven together with Christian worship to celebrate the marriage. Ceremonies at FBC will reflect the standard that God is the center of our lives.
- ✿ If children under the age of 5 are part of the wedding ceremony, there must be an adult not in the wedding party assigned to be responsible for the children.
- ✿ Items such as aisle runners, rings, pillow, baskets, candles, readings, guest books, etc. must be given to the wedding coordinator at the final meeting.
- ✿ We do not permit the throwing of rice or confetti that requires cleanup outside the Sanctuary steps or courtyard.
- ✿ Smoking and alcohol are not allowed in the church building.
- ✿ Your wedding party must agree to indemnify and hold harmless First Baptist Church from any injuries that may occur while on the premises.

### **A note for our members:**

"Members" refers to persons who are on the current membership roll at FBC, and their immediate family.



## *The First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland*

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