



Wedding Policies & Procedures

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Wedding Policies for Brentwood Baptist Church

(and all affiliated campuses)

Brentwood Baptist Church is one church, multiple locations. Together, our campuses make up one church with one mission. We share resources, staff, and governance so each congregation can effectively reach our Middle Tennessee communities.

Brentwood Baptist Church affirms that the marriage of a man and a woman is sacred in the sight of God and blessed by God. Marriage was God's idea. It was the Lord who said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a helper as his partner. Therefore, a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife and together, they become one flesh." Therefore, the institution of marriage should not be entered into lightly.

The wedding ceremony is an important event as couples begin their married lives together. Brentwood Baptist Church believes that the ceremony is a worship service and dedicates worship space for this purpose. The policies that are listed below are intended to reflect this intent and purpose. They are not intended to be restrictive or exclusive in any way. Rather, they are intended to preserve the sacredness of the event.

Policies

1. Individuals who are seeking to have a wedding ceremony at Brentwood Baptist Church or any of her affiliated campuses must be members of the church, regular attendees of the church, or the children or grandchildren of members of the church.
2. Regular attendees of the church must have a letter from an ordained minister of the church that validates their active participation. If no minister is known by the regular attendees, an attendance form obtained from the Facilities Office must be signed by a Brentwood Baptist minister indicating that the couple has attended Brentwood Baptist Church at least four (4) times prior to the wedding.
3. It is understood that all wedding couples (including those living out of town or out of state) will be able to meet the following expectations:
 - The wedding couple or, at a minimum the bride, will meet in person with the Facilities Administrative Assistant to review and sign the wedding policies. Surrogates such as the parents of the wedding couple, may not complete this task for the wedding couple;
 - The wedding couple or, at a minimum the bride, will meet in person with the Wedding Coordinator to review the wedding plans. Surrogates such as the parents of the wedding couple, may not complete this task for the wedding couple;
 - The wedding couple will complete all requirements for premarital counseling (see note below).
4. Couples must complete premarital counseling prior to the wedding. If the counseling is not done at Brentwood Baptist, the couple must have a form obtained from the Facilities Office signed by their minister stating that they have completed premarital counseling.
5. Couples who are living together prior to marriage must abstain from sexual relations and move apart until the time of the wedding ceremony.
6. Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, Brentwood Baptist Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, our pastors and ministers and the staff of

Brentwood Baptist Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of Brentwood Baptist Church (and its campuses) shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

7. Brentwood Baptist Wedding Coordinators and assistants will be required for all ceremonies (coordinator fees are included in the wedding fees). Outside consultants may be used, but must defer to the decisions and interpretation of policies of the assigned Wedding Coordinator. Outside consultants must sign the “Outside Consultant Agreement” obtained from the Facilities Office.
8. A security deposit of \$500 is required in order to reserve a wedding date on the calendar for all campuses.
9. The wedding fee must be paid in full at least 60 days before the wedding in order for the wedding ceremony to take place.
10. Couples must meet with the Facilities Administrative Assistant and complete a wedding application form before a date can be set for a wedding ceremony.
11. A trained and authorized sound tech is required to operate the audio and video equipment of the church.
12. Dates and times for weddings and rehearsals must be calendared through the Facilities Office.
13. Any changes to dates and times must be made **2 weeks prior** to the wedding. No changes will be considered after the 2 weeks prior deadline.
14. Any changes to scheduled times must be communicated **by the coordinator** directly to the Facilities Office.
15. Rehearsal and wedding start and end times must be adhered to closely.
16. Seating is limited to the number listed in the policy. Fire codes prevent seating in the aisles and hallways.
17. Guest seating is not allowed in the sound booths. Only photographers, videographers, or musicians are allowed in the sound booths. There are no exceptions.
18. When requested, the elements of the Lord’s Supper will be served to the bride and groom only, and not to the wedding guests.

Bride Photo Policy

Brentwood Baptist will allow couples who are getting married on a Brentwood campus to have a photo shoot at the campus as long as the photo shoot is scheduled in advance and approved through the facilities office. Two nights each month will be designated by the facilities office for the venue to be used for these sessions. In the case of a funeral or other event that cannot be planned in advance, the scheduled photo shoot may be changed. It will be required that the wedding coordinator that is working with the couple be present for the shoot. A facilities and coordinator fee of \$50/hour will be charged for the session. The session may not last longer than 2 hours. Brentwood Baptist campuses may not be used for photo shoots for members who are getting married at other venues.

WEDDING APPLICATION
BRENTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
(and all affiliated campuses)

I affirm that:

1. I understand that the church does not allow its facilities to be used in a way that contradicts its faith or by persons or groups holding beliefs that contradict the church's faith.
2. To the best of my knowledge the purpose for which I am requesting use of church facilities will not contradict the church's faith, and I commit to promptly disclose any potential conflict of which I am aware, or become aware, to church staff.
3. I understand that Brentwood Baptist Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and biological woman. Further, our pastors and ministers and the staff of Brentwood Baptist Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of Brentwood Baptist Church (and its campuses) shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.
4. I understand that Brentwood Baptist Church will not perform a wedding ceremony for couples who are currently living together unless they agree to move apart until the time of the wedding.
5. I understand that upon approval of my facilities use request, I will need to provide a security deposit in the amount of \$500 and any other fees required by the church.
6. I understand that the church does not allow its facilities to be generally available to the public, and that my use of these facilities is subject to the executive pastor's approval, which is conditioned in part on my agreement to the requirements in the "Church Facility Use Policy," a copy of which I have read and understood.
7. The church believes disputes are to be worked out between parties without recourse to the courts. See, generally, Matthew Chapter 18 and 1 Corinthians Chapter 6. Accordingly, users of the facility agree to attempt resolution of any disputes through Christian mediation.

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Bride

Name: _____

Member? Yes (campus) _____ No (OR) Regular Attendee? Yes (campus) _____ No

Current Address: _____

Home #: _____ Work #: _____ Cell #: _____

E-mail: _____

Bride's Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Groom

Name: _____

Member? Yes (campus) _____ No (OR) Regular Attendee? Yes (campus) _____ No

Current Address: _____

Home #: _____ Work #: _____ Cell #: _____

E-mail: _____

Groom's Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Weddings can be scheduled on Saturdays (4-hour time periods only) between 8am and 6pm.

WEDDING REHEARSAL DATE: _____ TIME: _____

WEDDING DATE: _____ TIME: _____

MINISTER TO PERFORM CEREMONY: _____

Once a location, date and time have been selected, no changes can be made after two (2) weeks prior to the wedding. Changes that are requested before the two (2) week prior deadline will be considered, but cannot be guaranteed.

REFUNDABLE SECURITY DEPOSIT OF \$500 IS REQUIRED TO CONTINUE APPLICATION PROCESS AND TO CONFIRM THE DATE ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR

COMPLETION OF PREMARITAL COUNSELING

This certifies that _____ have completed the required premarital counseling as required by Brentwood Baptist Church (and all affiliated campuses).

Minister (please PRINT)

Minister (signature)

Phone

Please return this signed form to your Wedding Coordinator or campus Administrative Assistant at least 2 weeks prior to the wedding.

CATERING POLICIES
BRENTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
(and all affiliated campuses)

1. There will be no decorations affixed to the walls, moveable partitions or surfaces in any room. Signage or decorations pertaining to church business will not be removed from any location within the church.
2. **Open flame candles are prohibited on all Brentwood Baptist Church campuses (with the exception of the unity candle).**
3. No alcoholic beverages or items containing alcohol may be served at the reception or any other wedding related activities on the church premises.
4. A Wedding Coordinator must be present for receptions. No exceptions.
5. The caterer and their employees must refrain from the use of irreverent language, discourteous actions and smoking inside the building.
6. The caterer may arrive at the beginning of the reserved 4-hour wedding time frame to begin set up.
7. **Absolutely** no food or drink is to be taken into the wedding venue.
8. The use of church buildings for all wedding activities must conclude and everyone out of the building no later than 6pm. There are no exceptions to this policy. The church Facility Maintenance personnel will be setting up the rooms for the next day's activities.
9. **For Brentwood campus only:** To use the church food service as your caterer **OR** use the kitchen for catering, please contact Chef Andy Engberg at aengberg@brentwoodbaptist.com at least 60 days prior to event. Additional fees may be incurred.

We agree to comply with the rules and regulations of Brentwood Baptist Church regarding decorations, conduct, etc., as described above for weddings and receptions.

Caterer Name _____ Telephone _____

Caterer Signature _____

Wedding Date and Time _____

Bride's Name _____ Telephone _____

Please return this signed form to your Wedding Coordinator or campus Administrative Assistant at least two weeks prior to the wedding.

CATERER'S KITCHEN POLICIES

(The Church at Station Hill Only)

Purpose: These policies are designed to provide guidance for the use of the kitchen and the equipment, to promote cleanliness and good health practices, to ensure the proper use of the equipment and to protect the individuals or groups using the area and equipment.

1. **All usage of the kitchen** must be in keeping with the guidelines the Kitchen Events Team Leader/Staff has set.

2. **A Kitchen Checklist** must be used by anyone using the kitchen with a required signature of the person using the kitchen and the Kitchen Team Leader or Team member.

3. **Equipment Usage:** Anyone needing to use equipment in the kitchen will have to have a trained* Kitchen Team Member present during the entire event. **No equipment may be removed from kitchen. The only exception to equipment being taken out of kitchen would be the Igloo coolers, ice chests, and the kitchen cart as long as these items are returned by the end of your event.

4. **Request Form For Use of Kitchen/Equipment**

- Scheduling will be done on a first-come/first serve basis with priority given to staff events and then groups within the church before outside group events.
- **Church Events:** A Request Form for use of kitchen must be filled out and returned to church office at least 2 weeks in advance.
 - Anyone using the kitchen must have a trained Kitchen Team Leader available during the entire event.
 - Ministries using the kitchen must have a trained person from their group at the event to set up, clean up and close up. The reserving party must dispose of **ALL** leftover foods and clean the area after the event.
 - Ministries will be billed for all supplies and paper products used.
 - Supply request will be filled out on the Kitchen Form.
 - The user will be responsible for cleaning up the kitchen.
 - If there is to be any food left in refrigerator for a specific use, the food needs to be **dated and labeled** and is not to remain in the refrigerator longer than 3 days. If it is in the refrigerator after the 3 day limited and the Kitchen Team Leader has not been notified of the use, it will be thrown away!

*Training will be provided by the Kitchen Team Leader and will be required by everyone that will be using any of the equipment in the kitchen. The training will be offered 2 times a year and required to be retrained annually.

**No one will be allowed in the kitchen unless they are working or helping with an event. Workers must be at least 16 years old.

5. **Outside organizations, groups or individuals**

A Request Form for use of kitchen must be filled out and returned to church office no less than 30 days in advance and is based on availability.

- A fee will be charged in accordance with the fee schedule for non-church related events.
- There must be a paid Kitchen Team Leader/Member in the kitchen for the entire time of event. A fee of \$20/hour, with a minimum of 3 hours, will be charged.

- The user will be responsible for cleaning up the kitchen area.
- The **Kitchen Checklist** must be completed, signed and returned to Kitchen Team Member before leaving the event.

****A fee of \$20/hour (3 hour minimum) will be charged to the user if the kitchen is left unclean.**

6. **Outside Caterers:** For outside events when an outside caterer is used, a deposit of \$300.00 will be required from the catering company. If the kitchen is left clean and in good order after the event, the deposit less an equipment fee of \$30/hour, for a minimum of three hours, will be credited back to the company. The equipment use fee covers the expense of the Kitchen Team Leader compensation, cleaning detergents, towels and expendable materials.

- A Kitchen Team Leader/Member must be present whenever the kitchen is in use. The Team Leader/Member will monitor and oversee the operation of the equipment.
- Outside caterers may only use the kitchen once they have completed the equipment training. Training arrangements should be made with the Kitchen Team Leader 30 days prior to the event and is based on single occupancy.
- Before the outside caterer is allowed to use the kitchen, a copy of their latest business license, worker’s compensation certificate, certificate of business liability insurance and product liability insurance must be filed with the church office and a copy given to the Kitchen Team Leader.
- The outside caterer must sign a Hold Harmless Agreement with The Church at Station Hill in the event of injury or illness because of their actions or inactions.
- Outside caterers must also make arrangements with the Kitchen Team Leader for food being delivered to the church prior to their event. The church will not provide food, supplies, or paper goods to the outside caterer.
- The kitchen must be reserved through the church office no less than 30 days in advance.
- The Kitchen Team Leader must be notified of kitchen being reserved no less than 30 days in advance.

We agree to comply with the rules and regulations of Brentwood Baptist Church regarding decorations, conduct, etc., as described above for weddings.

Caterer Name _____ Telephone _____

Caterer Signature _____

Wedding Date and Time _____

Bride’s Name _____ Telephone _____

Please return this signed form to your Wedding Coordinator or campus Administrative Assistant at least two weeks prior to the wedding.

FLORIST POLICIES
Brentwood Baptist Church
(and all affiliated campuses)

1. It's the responsibility of the wedding party to make sure all flowers and decorations are removed immediately after the wedding. The church has no place to store these items and anything left will be discarded.
2. If flowers are to remain at the church for use of Sunday in the foyer, they must be in moveable containers. The Facilities Office must be notified of these arrangements.
3. No nails, screws, tacks, glue or cellophane tape may be used on the walls, carpet, floors, stage, furniture or metalwork. Protective covering must be placed under the unity candelabra. Only dripless candles are to be used in the unity candelabra.
4. The florist and their employees must refrain from the use of irreverent language, discourteous actions and smoking inside the building.
5. No live flower petals are to be dropped in the church aisles. Artificial flower petals may be dropped down the main aisle, however it's the responsibility of the wedding party to pick up All petals immediately after the ceremony.
6. If berries are used in floral arrangements, special attention must be given to avoid stains.
7. No food or drink may be taken into the wedding venue.
8. The florist may arrive 30 minutes prior to the reserved 4-hour time frame and should be scheduled through the wedding coordinator.

We agree to comply with the rules and regulations of Brentwood Baptist Church regarding decorations, conduct, etc., as described above for weddings.

Florist Name _____ Telephone _____

Florist Signature _____

Wedding Date and Time _____

Bride's Name _____ Telephone _____

Please return this signed form to your Wedding Coordinator or campus Administrative Assistant at least two weeks prior to the wedding.

MUSICIAN POLICIES
BRENTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
(and all affiliated campuses)

1. The Worship Ministry (at the campus where the wedding is being held) must approve all music used during the ceremony. It is the Bride’s responsibility to email the appropriate Minister a complete listing of musical selections which will be used during the ceremony 30 days prior to the wedding date. The list must include song title, composer, and lyrics where applicable.
2. The harp, organ, and all electronic/electric instruments are available for use by approved musicians only. If you desire to use any of these instruments with an outside musician, this request must be made in writing to the Worship Ministry.
3. It is the Bride’s responsibility to contract with any musicians being used for the wedding ceremony; therefore, musicians must consult the Bride directly with any music related questions. A list of “Special Event Musicians” is available from the Music and Worship office if needed.
4. No flowers, ribbons, or other decorations may be affixed in any way to any church-owned musical instruments.
5. No church owned musical instruments may be removed from the church building. Neither can any church instruments be moved within the church building without the approval of the Music and Worship Minister.
6. Musicians and any of their employees must refrain from the use of irreverent language, discourteous actions and smoking inside the building.
7. No food or drink may be taken into the wedding venue.

We agree to comply with the rules and regulations of Brentwood Baptist Church regarding Wedding Ceremony Music as described above.

Musician Name _____ Telephone _____

Musician Signature _____

Wedding Date and Time _____

Bride’s Name _____ Telephone _____

Please return this signed form to your Wedding Coordinator or campus Administrative Assistant at least two weeks prior to the wedding.

OUTSIDE CONSULTANT AGREEMENT
BRENTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
(and all affiliated campuses)

Each wedding held at Brentwood Baptist Church (or an affiliated campus) will be assigned a Brentwood Baptist Church Wedding Coordinator who will be present during all activities scheduled for the wedding.

The Outside Consultant agrees to do the following:

1. Ensure that all communication and special requests with the church go through the Wedding Coordinator.
2. Defer all decisions and interpretation of policies to the assigned Wedding Coordinator. Outside Consultant and Wedding Coordinator will go over the policies of the church and the Consultant will be responsible for ensuring all wedding attendees follow the policies.
3. Provide names and phone numbers of any vendors providing services to the wedding party at least two weeks prior to the event, with a description of services to be provided.
4. Provide information on technical needs directly to the Wedding Coordinator.
5. Ensure bride provides a list of wedding/ceremony music to the Wedding Coordinator and Worship Ministry at least 30 days prior to the wedding for approval by Music and Worship Minister.
6. Understand that under no circumstances will the Outside Consultant move any furniture, flowers, plants, instruments, panels, cameras, or ask technical staff to move them without first consulting the Wedding Coordinator.
7. Ensure that the wedding party stay confined to only those areas which have been reserved for the wedding. Non-compliance to this request may result in additional fees or loss of security deposit.
8. Ensure that the wedding ceremony begins and ends on time.
9. Ensure that they and their employees refrain from the use of irreverent language, discourteous actions and smoking inside the building.

I agree to comply with the rules and regulations of Brentwood Baptist Church as set forth above.

Outside Consultant Name _____ Telephone _____

Outside Consultant Signature _____

Wedding Date and Time _____

Bride's Name _____ Telephone _____

Please return this signed form to your Wedding Coordinator or campus Administrative Assistant at least two weeks prior to the wedding.

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY POLICIES
BRENTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
(and all affiliated campuses)

1. NO FLASH photography will be allowed during the ceremony. The ceremony begins when the bride arrives at the end of the aisle. Timed exposures ONLY are allowed from the balcony. You may photograph the bride and groom as they recess using a flash.
2. The use of tripods, stands, and other equipment is allowed as long as their use does not deface any of the church furnishings and does not interfere with the movement in the aisles.
3. The Church Wedding Coordinator can help direct your Photographer as to suitable locations for setup.
4. Any trash should be placed in its proper receptacle or be removed from the church when you leave.
5. Photographer and their employees must refrain from the use of irreverent language, discourteous actions and smoking inside the building.
6. No food or drink may be taken into the wedding venue.
7. All those assisting the Photographer are expected to abide by these same guidelines.
8. Should you choose NOT to follow these guidelines, you will be added to our UNAPPROVED list of photographers.

We agree to comply with the rules and regulations of Brentwood Baptist Church regarding Photographer as described above.

Photographer Name _____ Telephone _____

Photographer Signature _____

Wedding Date and Time _____

Bride's Name _____ Telephone _____

Please return this signed form to your Wedding Coordinator or campus Administrative Assistant at least two weeks prior to the wedding.

VIDEOGRAPHY POLICIES
BRENTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
(and all affiliated campuses)

1. Videotaping is permitted, but is not provided by Brentwood Baptist Church.
2. The Church Wedding Coordinator and/or Media Director can help direct your Videographer as to suitable locations for setup.
3. The Videographer may schedule an appointment with the Wedding Coordinator to view the facility at least two weeks prior to the ceremony. This may result in additional fees to the bride.
4. The use of tripods, stands and other equipment is permitted as long as their use does not deface any church furnishings.
5. The use of any Church video equipment is not permitted.
6. Videographer and their employees must refrain from the use of irreverent language, discourteous actions and smoking inside the building.
7. No food or drink may be taken into the wedding venue.

We agree to comply with the rules and regulations of Brentwood Baptist Church regarding Videography as described above.

Videographer Name _____ Telephone _____

Videographer Signature _____

Wedding Date and Time _____

Bride's Name _____ Telephone _____

Please return this signed form to your Wedding Coordinator or campus Administrative Assistant at least two weeks prior to the wedding.

WORSHIP CENTER WEDDING POLICIES

1. The Worship Center at The Church at Station Hill is available for weddings not to exceed 650 attendees.
2. Weddings can be scheduled in the Worship Center on Saturdays from 8am – 6pm (4-hr. time periods only). No activities may be planned in the Worship Center on Sundays. All Saturday evening activities are required to be completed by 6pm to allow for Sunday morning set up.
3. The bride's room and groom's room will be scheduled for 4-hour time periods. Requests for longer time periods will not be permitted.
4. The user of the Worship Center is responsible for the care and condition of the room and its furnishings and should be left in the same condition as it was found.
5. The movement or removal of anything on the stage requires approval from the Media Department. Facilities Staff will not move any musical equipment or tech booth. If staging necessitates the moving or rearranging of musical instruments, tech equipment or furniture, it may be done **ONLY** with prior approval of the Media Department and **ONLY** under the direction and supervision of the Wedding Coordinator, Facilities Office and Media Technical Staff.
6. In the event additional equipment is required, a Facility Request Form must be completed no later than 30 days prior to the wedding. You may obtain a copy from the Facilities Office or your Wedding Coordinator.
7. It is the Bride's responsibility to ensure the florist and/or equipment vendor follow our church policies for removal of flowers and/or equipment. Failure to pick up rental property within the two-hour time frame can result in the vendor not being able to retrieve their property until the next business day. The church will not be responsible for any loss or damage to unattended equipment and due to limited space, equipment will be left outside.
8. Flowers will need to be removed when you leave the building.
9. The church custodians will be responsible for removing and returning all church supplied wedding accessories to their proper areas of storage.
10. Please note that **rental of the Worship Center does not include access to the Caterer's kitchen.**
11. No nails, screws, tacks, glue or tape of any kind may be used on the walls, floor, stage, furniture or metalwork. All decorations must be pre-approved through the church Wedding Coordinator and Facilities Office.
12. **Open flame candles are prohibited on all Brentwood Baptist Church campuses** (with the exception of the unity candle). Lighting of the unity candle (use dripless candles only) will be done under the supervision of the Church Wedding Coordinator. Protective covering must be placed under the unity candelabra.
13. No materials are to be thrown/tossed inside or outside the church building including, but not limited to, confetti, rice, sparklers, etc. Artificial flower petals may be dropped down the main aisle. However, it is the responsibility of the wedding party to pick up **ALL** petals immediately after the ceremony.
14. No aisle runners are allowed.
15. Cost for this venue: \$1,350.
16. There is an additional stage clear fee of \$30/hour.
17. There is an additional lighting re-focus fee of \$30/hour.

STUDENT WORSHIP CENTER WEDDING POLICIES

1. The Student Worship Center at The Church at Station Hill is available for weddings not to exceed 115 attendees.
2. Weddings can be scheduled in the Student Worship Center on Saturdays from 8am – 6pm (4-hr. time periods only). No activities may be planned in the Student Worship Center on Sundays. All Saturday evening activities are required to be completed by 6pm to allow for Sunday morning set up.
3. The bride's room and groom's room will be scheduled for 4-hour time periods. Requests for longer time periods will not be permitted.
4. The user of the Student Worship Center is responsible for the care and condition of the room and its furnishings and should be left in the same condition as it was found.
5. The movement or removal of anything on the stage requires approval from the Media Department. Facilities Staff will not move any musical equipment or tech booth. If staging necessitates the moving or rearranging of musical instruments, tech equipment or furniture, it may be done **ONLY** with prior approval of the Media Department and **ONLY** under the direction and supervision of the Wedding Coordinator, Facilities Office and Media Technical Staff.
6. In the event additional equipment is required, a Facility Request Form must be completed no later than 30 days prior to the wedding. You may obtain a copy from the Facilities Office or your Wedding Coordinator.
7. It is the Bride's responsibility to ensure the florist and/or equipment vendor follow our church policies for removal of flowers and/or equipment. Failure to pick up rental property within the two-hour time frame can result in the vendor not being able to retrieve their property until the next business day. The church will not be responsible for any loss or damage to unattended equipment and due to limited space, equipment will be left outside.
8. Flowers will need to be removed when you leave the building.
9. The church custodians will be responsible for removing and returning all church supplied wedding accessories to their proper areas of storage.
10. Please note that **rental of the Student Worship Center does not include access to the Caterer's kitchen.**
11. No nails, screws, tacks, glue or tape of any kind may be used on the walls, floor, stage, furniture or metalwork. All decorations must be pre-approved through the church Wedding Coordinator and Facilities Office.
12. **Open flame candles are prohibited on all Brentwood Baptist Church campuses** (with the exception of the unity candle). Lighting of the unity candle (use dripless candles only) will be done under the supervision of the Church Wedding Coordinator. Protective covering must be placed under the unity candelabra.
13. No materials are to be thrown/tossed inside or outside the church building including, but not limited to, confetti, rice, sparklers, etc. Artificial flower petals may be dropped down the main aisle. However, it is the responsibility of the wedding party to pick up **ALL** petals immediately after the ceremony.
14. No aisle runners are allowed.
15. Cost for this venue: \$1,150.
16. There is an additional stage clear fee of \$30/hour.
17. There is an additional lighting re-focus fee of \$30/hour.

ATRIUM RECEPTION POLICIES

1. The Atrium at The Church at Station Hill campus is available for receptions and may be reserved at the time the wedding is scheduled.
2. The capacity of this area should not exceed 250 people at any time.
3. The wedding party will be required to use Brentwood Baptist Church furniture.
4. There will be no decorations affixed to the walls, moveable partitions, stage, or surfaces in the rooms without the consent and approval of the Facility Management Office.
5. **Open flame candles are prohibited at receptions on all Brentwood Baptist Church campuses.**
6. Catering policies will be discussed in detail with our church Wedding Coordinator. Refer to Caterer's Kitchen Policies.
7. No alcoholic beverages or items containing alcohol will be served at the reception or any other wedding related activities on the church premises.
8. The wedding party and their guests must refrain from the use of irreverent language, discourteous actions and smoking inside the church building.
9. All food service must be coordinated through the Facility Management Office and Wedding Coordinator. Special arrangements are necessary within 60 days of event, if the kitchen and/or serving areas are requested.
10. Neither the use of electronically based bands nor dancing is permissible at the reception. Acoustic instruments may be played and song list should be approved by the Worship Ministry.
11. Use of the piano must be coordinated in advance through the Wedding Coordinator.
12. The wedding party must vacate the area by 6pm on Saturday evening due to the required set up time for Sunday morning worship.
13. Special arrangements must be made 30 days in advance for special audio, video and lighting technical support with the Technical Director. Tech support is \$75 for all receptions.
14. Wedding Coordinators must be present for receptions.
15. Cost of this venue for a reception is \$500.

A WORD FROM OUR CAMPUS & TEACHING PASTOR

I want to extend my congratulations to you on your engagement and upcoming wedding! This is an exciting time for you and I'm honored that you would consider Station Hill being part of such an important moment in your life. I definitely want God's best for you, as does our entire staff. As a pastor, I'm called to ensure the sacred nature of a wedding ceremony and the importance of establishing a strong biblical foundation to build your marriage upon. With that in mind, I wanted to share with you some brief thoughts about marriage and your wedding day. Please take a few moments to read this and please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions.

“Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is “God’s unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and his church...” – The Baptist Faith and Message.

Marriage is one of two institutions created by God (along with the Church) and is a picture of the love between Jesus and His church. Therefore, marriage “is not to be entered into lightly, but with respect and reverence.” A relationship with Jesus Christ is the key to our re-connection with God and the foundation of all healthy human relationships. Therefore, the most pressing concern for me in regards to your marriage is that both of you are followers of Jesus Christ. It's through the lens of your faith that you will view all aspects of marriage, such as finances, communication, conflict resolution, and even intimacy. If you have questions about faith or your relationship with Jesus, it would be a great privilege to talk with you about Christ. Please let me know how I can help.

In addition, out of respect for the Gospel, and in keeping with our convictions at Brentwood Baptist Church, our staff is unable to officiate ceremonies for couples who are living together. This position is not one of judgment, condemnation or legalism. Our motivation is actually the opposite, out of a deep love for Jesus, for you, and for the church. If you are having another person, who is not on staff at a regional campus of Brentwood Baptist Church, officiate your wedding here then we require them to agree with this position as well. Let me share two reasons for this...

(1) Integrity of the Gospel. Obviously, living together before marriage dramatically increases the temptation to be sexually active before marriage. Since marriage is a witness to the world of the relationship between Christ and the church, it's important that our relationship during engagement reflects that picture in the purest way possible. It affects our ability to proclaim the gospel. Non-Christians may question our integrity if we profess such a high standard for marriage yet do not honor it our actions leading up to the wedding.

(2) Integrity of Marriage. Living together “short-circuits” the careful sacrificial commitment God has established for marriage and impacts the foundation you are establishing. Additionally, there is increasing research that shows couples who live together before marriage have a greater likelihood of marital dissatisfaction once they are married.

I will understand if this stance potentially complicates your living arrangements prior to your wedding. Remember, our motivation is one of love. If you are currently co-habiting, then there are options available to you and I would personally be glad to discuss some of those options with you and how you can honor God and your fiancée in preparation of your wedding. We would be honored to host your ceremony if you choose to honor God with your decision in this area.

Again, please don't hesitate to let me know if I can answer any questions you have about this, or be of assistance in any manner.

Jay Strother | Campus & Teaching Pastor | 615.850.3100

THEY'RE LIVING TOGETHER THEY WANT ME TO PERFORM THEIR WEDDING

One Minister's Response

Mike Glenn

The first meeting I have with a couple planning their wedding ceremony is usually routine. I find out basic information from the bride and groom. Nothing fancy—where they work, how they met, and phone numbers and addresses. That's when I find out a couple is living together without being married. Both the groom and bride-to-be give me the same address. What am I to do with this situation?

First, I must acknowledge that I am a Christian minister. My perspective on marriage and how we approach this relationship is formed from the clear teachings of Scripture. I am compelled to approach marriage from a distinctively Christian perspective. Christians are different from the rest of the world. We follow Christ's guidance and counsel in our relationships and with that, we look forward to God's blessings in our marriages.

For believers, the issue is not whether or not a couple should be married. The question of marriage is answered in the same context as every part of the believer's life. Will our marriage bring glory and honor to God? In a Christian marriage, the marriage partners express their relationship with Christ in their relationships with each other. As a couple prepares for their wedding, both must ask if their present lifestyle is one that will bring glory and honor to God. If the couple's lifestyle is not one that currently honors God, is it reasonable to expect the marriage relationship to bring glory to God?

The Scriptures plainly teach that a couple should live together as husband and wife only after they are married. Living together before marriage harms the people involved and ignores God's vision for the marriage relationship.

In the wedding service, we use such words as "holy" and phrases like "seeking God's blessings." When I am involved in a marriage service, the service will be distinctively Christian. Not only will the marriage ceremony be distinctively Christian, but as a Christian minister, I expect the couple's marriage to be distinctively Christian. The Bible clearly articulates Christian principles for both husbands and wives. These principles are to be part of the couple's married life together. Living together without being married is evidence that the Christian principles of marriage are not yet understood.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES INVOLVED:

- 1. We are precious to God.** Jesus Christ gave His life for us on the cross. Living together takes what is precious—the groom and his wife-to-be—and makes them common. God has created each person uniquely in His image. Living together without marriage debases each person. The woman is not honored as being the husband's wife; she becomes simply a woman who is living with a man. The man becomes a man who is living with a woman. Neither are honored or built up. In fact, each one is torn down, made less than God intended.
- 2. Living together erodes the foundation of a lasting marriage which cannot easily be repaired.** Commitment—the total and willful decision of a man and a woman to remain together until death—is the foundation of a successful and Godly marriage. The scriptural principal involved in commitment is sacrifice. Living together in marriage requires a great deal of self-discipline and sacrifice. Living apart before marriage demonstrates that you are capable of exerting this self-discipline and sacrifice.

Especially in the face of today's culture, it is a greater statement of commitment to say, "I will restrain myself until we are married."

3. Sex outside of marriage is always wrong. Sexual relations without the binding commitments of the total persons involved as exhibited in marriage cheapens the relationship and the people involved. For the sake of the persons who are living together and seeking to be married, and keeping with our obedience to God and His Word, I cannot scripturally nor logically support this arrangement. Supporting two people living together without marriage violates the principle of love for the couple and the integrity of the Gospel we proclaim.

I WILL WORK WITH THE COUPLE WHO ARE LIVING TOGETHER WITHOUT BEING MARRIED UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. That they enter into premarital counseling with a recognized minister or counselor.
2. That they move apart until the time of the wedding, and abstain from sexual relations. Moving apart until the wedding will restore some understanding of the sacredness of the marriage event. The time will also give both individuals an opportunity to evaluate where they are in their own pilgrimages as Christians. It also shows their future partners that they are willing to do whatever is necessary for their marriage to survive. To be quite honest, there will be times when remaining in the marriage will be hard, not merely inconvenient.

Please do not misunderstand my position. The stand I take is taken out of great love for the couple and out of great respect for God and His Word. I simply cannot silently stand by and watch as a couple does things that hurt their lives, damages their prospects for a successful marriage, and ignores God's desires for their lives.

I trust the couple will prayerfully consider the redemptive remedies I have offered. I am deeply committed to living with integrity the claims the Gospel of Jesus Christ makes upon my life. Also, I am deeply committed in my love for each person contemplating marriage. Sometimes, love means having to be painfully honest with the one who is loved.

God has offered marriage as a great gift to us. I want each marriage to be all that the couple hopes it will be. I want each marriage to be all God wants it to be. When it comes to a Christian marriage, I am not comfortable in settling for anything less.

Regular Attendee Form

Name: _____

Date	Service Attended	Minister

Date	Service Attended	Minister

Date	Service Attended	Minister

Date	Service Attended	Minister

This form must be signed by a minister of the church on the date of attendance.