

Weddings at Friendswood Baptist Church

At Friendswood Baptist Church, we believe that marriage is intended to be a lifelong covenant made between a man and a woman before the living God through which God joins them together as husband and wife. Thus, we believe it is essential for both of you to not only prepare for a wedding, but also a lifetime of marriage. As you work together, with God's help, to fulfill the responsibilities of a Christian marriage and home, you, those around you, and those who come after you will be blessed.

Weddings at Friendswood: Step-by-Step

1. Receive information on policies from the church office staff.
2. Make steps to conform to all requirements set forth in the policies.
3. Meet with a member of the pastoral staff to:
 - ♥ Review information and questions regarding the policies;
 - ♥ Review the biblical foundations of marriage;
 - ♥ Agree to and sign the premarital covenant.
4. Schedule your wedding on the church calendar (with office staff).
5. Make arrangements to engage in a minimum of six sessions of premarital counseling with a member of the pastoral staff.
6. Deposit and fees (for non-members) are payable 30 days prior to wedding date.
7. Decorating (consult with office staff)
8. Wedding Rehearsal
9. Wedding

Please notice that it will take several months to realistically move through this process of preparing for your wedding at Friendswood Baptist Church. Thus, couples should set a wedding date that allows each step of this process to be completely and sincerely fulfilled.

Friendswood Baptist Church

General Wedding Policies

We ask that every couple married at Friendswood Baptist Church conform completely to the policies set forth in this document. In return, we offer you:

- ♥ Our pastoral staff to guide you as you seek to build a healthy marriage and a Christian home;
 - ♥ Our office staff to make planning your wedding a little easier;
 - ♥ Our church fellowship to nurture you in your marriage;
 - ♥ Our church facility to beautifully adorn your wedding day.
1. **Members:** Friendswood Baptist Church is openly available for weddings in which at least the husband or wife are members or **regular** attenders (faithful attendance of 6 months or more).
 2. **Non-Members:** Due to the scope of the Friendswood Baptist Church ministry, weddings in which neither husband nor wife are members (or regular attenders) will be restricted to 6 per calendar year (and no more than 1 per month).
 3. **Minister:** Weddings must be conducted by a member of the Friendswood Baptist Church pastoral staff. An exception *may* be made if our pastoral staff knows the couple's desired minister or if the couple would like to have another minister conduct *part* of the ceremony (arrangements must be made with our pastoral staff *prior* to setting the date for the wedding).
 4. **Cleaning:**
 - a. Wedding parties must return all parts of the church facility they used to the condition they were found (including dressing rooms), *immediately at the conclusion of the event*.
 - b. Custodial services provided by the church include: vacuum, sweep, empty trash receptacles, and lock the building. You are responsible for everything else (including picking up trash and

decorations)! The cost for any additional work required by our custodial staff will be deducted from your deposit.

5. **Decorations:**

- a. No rice or birdseed may be used *inside* the facility.
- b. No tacks, nails, tape, clay, staples, or any other decorating items may be used that could damage the facility. Flowers or ribbon may be attached to pews with wire or clips **ONLY**.
- c. *Only non-drip candles (with protection underneath) may be used.* Eighteen (18) candles, fifteen (15) inches in length, are needed for the church candelabra (if used).
- d. Only use artificial flowers for the flower girl.
- e. You must provide your own aisle runner (if desired). It should be 56 feet in length.
- f. The church office should be consulted on *all* decorating matters, including when the facility is available for decorating.

6. **Absolutely no alcohol or tobacco products are permitted on church property at any time!** Please refrain from any activity during the wedding events that may be objectionable to Christians. Wedding parties will be responsible for their guests with regard to this policy. Violation may result in a loss of deposit.

7. **Music:** We believe that weddings are to be conducted as a worship service. Therefore, all music used at the wedding and reception (if on site) must either be *Christian* music or be submitted to the pastoral staff for approval at least two weeks prior to the wedding.

8. **Tables, chairs, and other property normally used at church events are available.** Some restrictions may be placed on kitchen items. Decisions of the office staff on these matters are final.

9. **Lost or damaged items** (belonging to either the church or others) are the responsibility of those using the facility. If items belonging to the church are damaged, the church office must be notified *immediately at the conclusion of the event*.

Friendswood Baptist Church

Non-Member Fee Schedule

1. **Deposit – \$600.** The non-refundable fees and any additional charges due to any misuse of the facilities (or the need for additional custodial work) will be deducted from this deposit with the remainder returned within 30 days after the wedding. **This deposit is due 30 days prior to your wedding date.**

2. **Non-Refundable Fees**

- a. Premarital Counseling (supplies) – \$30
- b. Sanctuary Rental Fee – \$100
- c. Sanctuary Custodial Fee – \$75
- d. Sound System Operator – \$75
- d. Reception Hall Rental Fee – \$100
- e. Reception Hall Custodial Fee – \$125

Total for
Wedding
Only:
\$280

Total for
Wedding *and*
Reception:
\$430

3. **Minister**

It is customary to provide the officiating minister with an honorarium in consideration of his time investment for your wedding and premarital counseling. This honorarium is *not* included in the above fee schedule and will not be taken out of your deposit. We leave this to your discretion.

4. **Organist**

Our church organ is available to be used at your wedding at no additional cost. However, it will be your responsibility to locate and hire a trained organist. He/She should plan to be at the church for the wedding rehearsal and wedding ceremony.

Friendswood Baptist Church Pastoral Policies for Weddings

Every couple seeking a wedding at Friendswood Baptist Church should ask themselves a question: *are you merely seeking a wedding ceremony or are you seeking to prepare for the responsibilities of Christian marriage and building a Christian home?* Couples should recognize that the calling of the pastoral staff at Friendswood Baptist Church is such that we are focused on the latter and this will be reflected in our policies. Our desire is for you to have a happy and healthy marriage that will bring glory and honor to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Both parties must demonstrate a genuinely submissive spirit to the pastoral guidance they receive.
2. A minimum of 6 premarital counseling sessions will be required including the *Prepare-Enrich Inventory* and some reading.
3. The couple will be expected to understand and embrace a biblical covenant of marriage (a lifelong commitment, vowed before God).
4. Both parties must give evidence of saving faith in Jesus Christ.
5. Given the clear statement of Scripture, our pastors cannot marry a Christian to one who is not yet a Christian.
6. Given the importance of the nurture of Christian marriages, couples must evidence a commitment to active participation in a church.
7. As God's Word states that sexual purity before marriage is the only acceptable standard, couples are required to establish such a standard in their relationship.
8. Couples who are living together will be expected to establish separate residences and maintain sexual purity for the duration of the preparation process.
9. If there is divorce in the background of either party, it should be made known immediately to the pastor.
10. Couples will be asked to affirm a premarital covenant before a wedding date can be confirmed on the church calendar.

Friendswood Baptist Church
Premarital Covenant

1. We have read and agree to fulfill all of the “General Wedding Policies” of Friendswood Baptist Church.
2. We agree to submit to the pastoral direction given to us.
3. We commit to active participation in a church both now and after our marriage.
4. We commit to a standard of sexual abstinence from this day forward until our wedding day.
5. We agree to make a vow with each other before God for a lifetime covenant of marriage.
6. We commit ourselves to enthusiastically engage together in the pre-marital preparation and counseling process.

Signed _____(Groom)

Signed _____(Bride)

Date _____

Upon receipt of this signed covenant, the wedding can be placed on the church calendar. Our pastoral staff retains the right to end the pre-marital process and cancel Friendswood Baptist Church’s participation in the wedding if this agreement is not sincerely fulfilled by both parties.