

# Wedding Policy

## Requirements for Weddings at South Shore Baptist Church

Since the purpose of a church wedding, in our view, is partly to celebrate and commend the example of faithful obedience of a Christian man and woman in following God's will together,

1. Both the man and the woman must meet the spiritual qualifications for church membership. That is, both must have a consistent testimony of living faith in Christ and true conversion. (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1).
2. Both the man and the woman must have lived consistent Christian lives of worship, growth, giving and outreach for at least one year before applying to wed at SSBC. References from the home church will be required for non-members.
3. The couple must have some legitimate connection to SSBC.  
Legitimate connections include:
  - a. The man and/or the woman are church members or former members.
  - b. The man and/or the woman have been regular SSBC attendees for at least one year.
  - c. The man and/or the woman's parents are church members or former members.
4. The couple must remain sexually abstinent and live separately until marriage.
5. The couple must participate in approved pre-marital counseling. Wedding applications should be submitted at least four months in advance to allow time for this.
6. Their union must conform to the biblical teaching on divorce and remarriage.

## Other Items

Wedding applications are available on our website, [www.southshorebaptist.com](http://www.southshorebaptist.com); click the register or pay button and look for the Wedding Application. Couples must complete an application and meet with a South Shore Baptist Church pastor before receiving approval for a wedding.

Approval of a wedding application may remain under consideration through the third session of pre-marital counseling. Receiving pre-marital counseling from SSBC does not guarantee approval for a wedding at SSBC. Weddings will be "penciled in" on the church schedule until approved. Wedding invitations should not be ordered until approval is received.

Exceptions to this policy may be considered by the Elders at their regular monthly meeting.

Outside ministers may participate in wedding ceremonies upon church approval.

Non-SSBC members who wed at SSBC will pay a fee for building use in addition to gratuities.

The church wedding coordinator will provide the couple with logistical details about the ceremony, fees, etc.

A couple from another church wishing to use our facility must accompany their application with an official letter from their church leadership explaining the church's need to use our facility. The couple will need to meet all the above requirements and will also pay an SSBC representative to be present and coordinate logistics for the rehearsal and wedding. The services of the SSBC wedding coordinator will not usually be available to an outside wedding party.

