

THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED AT REGULAR CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ST. FRANCISVILLE, LA ON SUNDAY NIGHT, MARCH 5, 2000 IT IS TO BE ADDED TO THE EXISTING WEDDING POLICY AS THE OFFICIAL CHURCH POLICY AS OF THIS DATE

**THAT** – No homosexual, lesbian or same-sex wedding can be performed in First Baptist Church of St. Francisville, LA, or on any of its property by anyone.

**THAT** – When anyone calls to schedule any wedding in this church, the pastor or staff must be provided some basic information. If the applicants “fail” the test, they will be told that the wedding will not be performed in the church auditorium and also that the pastor or staff might not perform the wedding elsewhere.

- a. The pastor and staff will perform only heterosexual (not same sex) marriages.
- b. Weddings will not be performed in the church auditorium for male/female who are living together as husband and wife. There is no exception to this, however, the wedding might be performed elsewhere.
  1. If the couple will secure a marriage license as soon as possible and meet the pastor or staff member in the fellowship hall, or elsewhere, it might be considered.
  2. If one of the pair will move out of their dwelling and live separately until the scheduled wedding.
  3. If the couple will allow pastor or staff to draw up an agreement between the couple and pastor/staff which, if they cannot live separately, they will sign the agreement vowing sexual abstinence until the day of the wedding.
  4. Or, they should seek another person and location for the wedding.

Under such conditions the wedding could only be held in our auditorium if the family appealed to the deacons and they went to the church to overrule the pastor’s/staff’s member’s decision.

II. Under the above guidelines for weddings performed by the pastor and in this church, the staff members of our church should be in agreement with this so that no one violate the guidelines and perform the wedding in the church. Neither can the wedding applicants have someone (either family, friend or other minister) come into our church and perform the wedding. The decision to not host the wedding in our facility is final when the applicants fail the above test.

III. There will always be a bride and groom who feel they are the exception to the above. This policy guarantees that every applicant will be treated on an individual basis and will be talked with personally, if necessary, to try and clear up any seeming hindrance to the wedding taking place in our church building and by the pastor or staff member.

IV. It is never the purpose of the pastor, the staff, nor the church at large, to hurt the feelings of anyone, especially those who plan to marry. And because of this the following is given as a guideline to deal with a bride who comes to the church for a wedding but who is already pregnant.

Because the church deals with redeeming individuals, we will seek to give help in any way that we can. However, a large church-style wedding at which the bride is pregnant does not seem to be redeeming. Therefore the following is offered.

1. A bride and groom will add to their application for a wedding in the church, a statement to the effect that the bride is not pregnant.
2. When there is a pregnancy, the staff will offer other options rather than a church wedding, such as a private service with just family present, and this cannot grow into a huge wedding; or a wedding at someone's home, or a wedding in the church office, or some other setting than the church auditorium
3. Realizing that the ministers and the church are not able to police every couple, nor are they above being deceived, there will be times when the minister and church are deceived. Without a doubt this will happen. However, this is an attempt to do the best we can under the leadership of God's Holy Spirit and through His written Word.

Application for Scheduling Weddings  
First Baptist Church of St. Francisville

Wedding Date \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

Rehearsal Date \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

Bride-elect

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Groom-elect

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Address after Marriage \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have read the policies on Pages 1 and 2 of this application and agree to abide by these conditions and will make every effort to see that my guests do likewise.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bride-elect signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Groom-elect signature

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_