

Book: Poplar Springs Baptist Church Policy Manual  
Section 2000 General Church Policies  
Title Weddings  
Number 2425  
Authority Article VIII, Section A-2 of the Church By-Laws  
Article X of the Church By-Laws  
Adopted May 17, 2015

### Section 1 Purpose

Poplar Springs Baptist Church desires that your wedding be the happiest experience possible and that it be all God designed it to be. God created man and woman and intended the two to be joined in marriage, so that each might give to the other what each lacked alone. Because we desire to live within God's principles for marriage and are committed to building strong marriages, the following are guidelines governing the marriage ceremony in this church.

### Section 2 Reserving the church for your wedding

Your first step is to contact the church office and complete an application to reserve the facilities and to pay any applicable deposits and fees. A reservation is not confirmed until (1) a pastor has agreed to officiate at the wedding ceremony, (2) the time and date for the wedding has been processed by the church office, and (3) appropriate fees and deposits have been paid.

### Section 3 Officiating

In general, weddings held in church facilities or on church property are officiated by a pastor from Poplar Springs Baptist Church. Guest pastors may officiate or participate in the wedding at the discretion of the pastor of Poplar Springs Baptist Church. All guest pastors must agree to follow the relevant policies of Poplar Springs Baptist Church.

### Section 4 Pastoral Counseling

All couples who plan to be married at Poplar Springs Baptist Church must complete Christian counseling by the pastor who is officiating the ceremony. The duration and content of the counseling is at the discretion of the pastor who is officiating the ceremony.

## Section 5 Covenant Relationship

Poplar Springs Baptist Church believes that marriage is a holy covenant between a man and a woman. Weddings using church facilities or on church property shall only be between a man and a woman.

## Section 6 Photography

All photography and video-taping should be done in such a way as to not distract from the spirit of worship during the wedding ceremony. Photographers may take flash pictures during the wedding processional and the recessional. No flash photos may be taken during the wedding ceremony. Video taping must be as unobtrusive as possible and involving minimal movement by the videographer. The church strongly recommends that video equipment be confined to the balcony and / or the rear of the sanctuary. Photography of any kind may be taken at the reception. The bride and groom are responsible for making the photographers aware of this policy and requiring adherence to the policy.

## Section 7 Use of Church Property

The bride and groom shall be aware that the church has a separate policy for use of the church facilities that must be agreed to and followed. This is policy 2350 for members of Poplar Springs Baptist Church and policy 2400 for non-members. Policy 2350 and 2400 outline the church's requirements regarding tobacco use, alcohol, liability, cleaning responsibilities, AV services, and other areas.

## Section 8 Music

The bride and groom are reminded that the church's separate policies (2350 for members of Poplar Springs Baptist Church and policy 2400 for non-members) contain specific regulations regarding music that may be used in the sanctuary and other areas of church property.

## Section 9 Flowers and Decorations

The bride and groom are reminded that the church's separate policies (2350 for members of Poplar Springs Baptist Church and policy 2400 for non-members) contain specific regulations regarding flowers and other decorations that may be used in the sanctuary and other areas of church property.

## Section 10 Honorariums

The bride and groom shall discuss honorariums for instrumental musicians, solo musicians, the pastor, nursery workers, and other personnel as part of their wedding planning.