

Weddings and Receptions

Groveton Baptist Church

Policies and Fees

Statement of Beliefs

The family of Groveton Baptist Church believes that marriage unites one man and one woman in a lifetime commitment to each other (Genesis 2; 23-24; Matthew 18:4-6). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside the marriage between one man and one woman (I Corinthians 6:15-20). Marriage provides for intimate companionship, pure sexual expression (Genesis 2:25; Ephesians 5:31-133), procreation, and reflects the relationship of Christ and church (Genesis 1;28; Proverbs 5:15-19; I Corinthians 7:1-5).

The family at Groveton Baptist Church believes that a wedding ceremony should be a beautiful occasion and Christ centered. A wedding is a celebration of two people God has brought together. The wedding and its preparation shall be done in a manner that will bring honor and glory to Jesus Christ and His word.

Counselling

All engaged couples being married at Groveton Baptist Church are required to have counselling sessions with a pastor on our staff. The exact requirements for counselling will be made between the engaged couple and the officiating pastor. Normally the counselling will consist of at least four sessions. These sessions must be completed at least one month before the wedding date. It is the couple's responsibility to schedule the counselling sessions. The church believes that these counseling sessions are essential in providing a Christ-centered wedding. Stipend for counselling are included in the honorarium for the pastor.

Couples who have a relationship with another pastor may choose another officiant upon approval of one of Groveton's pastors. The pre-marital counselling requirements would be made in consultation with the visiting clergy and a Groveton pastor.

Making Reservations

Applications for the use of Groveton Baptist Church's facilities will be made by completing the Wedding Reservation Form. Fees for building use for non-church members are payable at the time reservations are made. This includes a refundable \$150 damage fee. Church members will be asked to pay a refundable \$150 scheduling fee which will also serve as the damage fee. Dates will not be calendared until fees are paid. Honorariums (pastor, custodial services, musicians, sound technicians) are paid before or at the final rehearsal for the wedding.

Wedding Request form will include:

- Date for rehearsal, wedding and reception (if held at the church)
- Facilities requested
- Type of wedding pertaining to dress (formal, informal)
- Names of florists, decorators, photographers, etc.

- Name of party to be responsible in event of damage
- Other pertinent information

Weddings for members cannot be scheduled more than one year in advance. Weddings for non-members cannot be scheduled more than six months in advance.

Weddings are scheduled through the church office. A wedding will not be scheduled until the wedding request form and appropriate fees are paid.

All weddings must be conducted by one of the pastors on staff with Groveton Baptist church. A pastor from another church may lead in a wedding upon approval from the Groveton pastors.

The church will not schedule weddings or rehearsals on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Christmas Eve, New Year's, Easter, and July 4. Weddings will not be scheduled on Sundays. Weddings will not be scheduled to begin any later than 4:00 PM on Saturdays.

Rehearsal

The rehearsal must begin promptly and on time. Here are some other guidelines:

- Both set of parents, and all ushers shall be present for the rehearsal
- A sound technician will be made available if needed but an honorarium is expected
- There will be no time for rehearsal for soloists to rehearse songs. Rehearsal with the accompanist shall be arranged at another time.
- The church organist/accompanist will not be at the rehearsal
- Plans for a rehearsal dinner in church facilities must be made at the time of the wedding scheduling and appropriate fees paid.

Fees

	Church Member		Non-Member	
	Use	Custodial	Use	Custodial
Scheduling/ Damage Fee (Refundable)	\$150		\$150	
Sanctuary	\$0	\$175	\$150	\$175
Reception				
East Hall	\$0	\$100	\$50	\$100
Fellowship Hall	\$0	\$225	\$100	\$225
East Hall Kitchen	\$0	\$25	\$25	\$25
Lower Kitchen (food preparation)	\$50		\$50	\$50
Bridal Room	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

The bride and bridesmaids dresses need to be modest in style and not to take away from the worship nature of a wedding ceremony.

Photography

The photographer may take photos before or after the ceremony in any part of the building. No flash photography may be taken during the ceremony. Photographers are not allowed to stand on chairs or pews.

Video Taping/Audio/Visuals

The wedding may be videotaped if the cameras remain stationary and relatively inconspicuous during the wedding ceremony. The video technician and camera must be in a stationary position. Slide or video presentations may be used in the actual wedding service. However, the content must be in keeping with a Christ centered wedding and all photos must be pre-approved.

The screens in the Sanctuary may be rolled up during a wedding ceremony.

Catering

The church has no food service. The church kitchens are available for food preparation with appropriate use fees. The kitchen facilities must be thoroughly cleaned and left in its original state. If a kitchen is not left clean, a deduction will be made from the damage deposit.

Groveton has no tableware available for use. Tables and chairs will be set by the church custodial staff and will be taken down after the reception.

Alcohol and Tobacco Use

The use of alcoholic beverages and the use of tobacco is strictly forbidden on church property.

Childcare

No childcare will be provided during a wedding at Groveton Baptist Church

