Marriage Policy

Please read, sign and return

There are few things as joyous as celebrating a wedding! Here is what you need to know about hosting your wedding at the Church. If you have any questions, please contact Tonya Casillas at 901.347.5461.

Statement of Belief

We believe in the beginning God created male and female in His image as a crowning act of Creation (Genesis 1:26-27); and marriage is between one male and one woman, ordered by God toward the union of the spouses, the means of procreation, formative of family, and foundational to the common good of society. All sexual relations outside of marriage is immoral. The consummation of marriage is reserved only for the union of marriage. (Genesis 1:28, 2:18-24, Hebrews 13:4, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20). Furthermore, the Church believes that sexuality is assigned by God at birth, whatever that may be, and the Holy Scripture does not permit an individual to alter their sexual identity physically or otherwise. (Mark 10:6-8, Deuteronomy 23:1).

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We believe that because God our Creator established marriage as a sacred institution between one (1) man and one (1) woman, the idea that marriage is a covenant only between one (1) man and one (1) woman has been the traditional definition of marriage for all of human history ("Traditional Definition of Marriage"). Because of the longstanding importance of the Traditional Definition of Marriage to humans and their relationships and communities, and, most importantly, the fact that God has ordained that marriage be between one (1) man and one (1) woman, as clearly conveyed in God's inerrant Scriptures, including for example in *Matthew 19:4-6* where in speaking about marriage Jesus referred to the fact that "he which made them at the beginning made them male and female." We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as either male or female, and that these two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God. We believe that God created marriage to be exclusively the union of one man and one woman, and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union. The Church hereby creates this policy, which shall be known as the "Marriage Policy."

Under this Church's Marriage Policy, the Traditional Definition of Marriage is the only definition of marriage that will be recognized or accepted. No director, pastor/elder, trustee, officer, employee, servant, agent, or any person, corporation, organization, or entity under the direction or control of this Church shall commit any act or omission, or make any decision whatever, that would be inconsistent with, or that could be perceived by any person to be inconsistent with, full support of this Church's Marriage Policy and strict adherence to the Traditional Definition of Marriage rather than any alternative to the Traditional Definition of Marriage.

This Church's Marriage Policy specifically prohibits acts or omissions including but not limited to permitting any Church assets or property, whether real property, personal property, intangible property, or any property or asset of any kind that is subject to the direction or control of the Church, to be used in any manner that would be or could be perceived by any person to be inconsistent with this Church's Marriage Policy or the Traditional

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Definition of Marriage, or our Church's beliefs as expressed in the Southern Baptist Convention's statement of faith, adopted on June 14, 2000. (A copy of the Baptist Faith and Message will be provided on request or can be accessed online at sbc.net/bfm2000/bfm2000.asp.), including but not limited to permitting any church facilities to be used by any person, organization, corporation, or group that would or might use such facilities to convey, intentionally or by implication, what might be perceived as a favorable impression about any definition of marriage other than the Traditional Definition of Marriage.

We believe this Church's Marriage Policy is based upon God's will for human life as conveyed to us through the Holy Scriptures, upon which this Church has been founded and anchored, and this Marriage Policy shall not be subject to change through popular vote; referendum; prevailing opinion of members or the general public; influence of or interpretation by any government authority, agency, or official action; or legal developments on the local, state, or federal level.

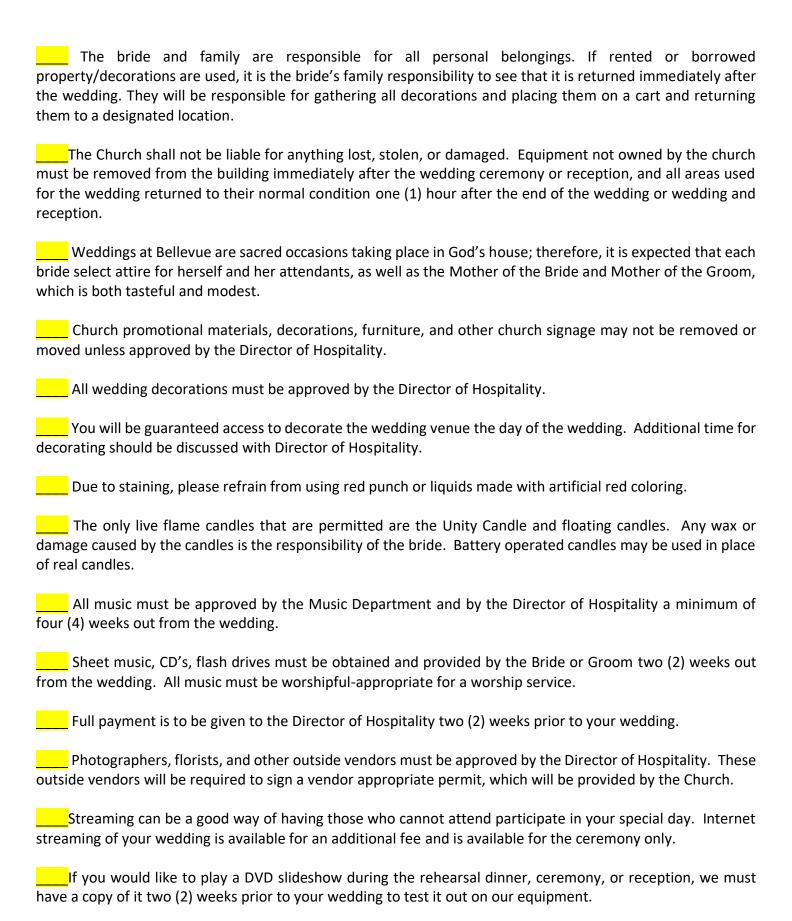
Faith—Both bride and groom must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 6:14).
Celibacy – The engaged couple must live separately before their wedding day. Sexual intimacy is to be celebrated exclusively within marriage (1 Thess. 4:3).
The bride, the groom, or one of their parents must be an active Bellevue member.
Confirmation of your wedding is tentative until calendar and ministerial approval is received.
Weddings and rehearsals will not be scheduled to conflict with other church-wide events, on Sundays, holidays, or holiday weekends.
Only Bellevue staff may direct weddings, receptions, and rehearsals at Bellevue Baptist Church.
Couple is required to meet with an Ordained Minister on staff, a minimum of four (4) hours of pre-marital counseling, to get approval (his blessing) for the wedding to take place here. Once the couple has arranged a time with an ordained minister, please contact the Director of Hospitality to let them know who the Minister is so that they can follow-up with him. Once approval is received from the minister the wedding dates are submitted to calendar committee to see if space and date are available.
Couple is also required to counsel with Officiating minister for one (1) hour of pre-marital counseling.
If you would like a non-Bellevue staff minister to marry you, we require the guest minister to complete our

All Bellevue weddings include a personal Wedding Coordinator, who will help you coordinate the direction of your rehearsal, wedding and reception, full access to our Bride's Room and Groom's Room, and access to our wedding planning resources and decorations. Wedding Coordinators will be assigned six (6) months prior to your wedding.

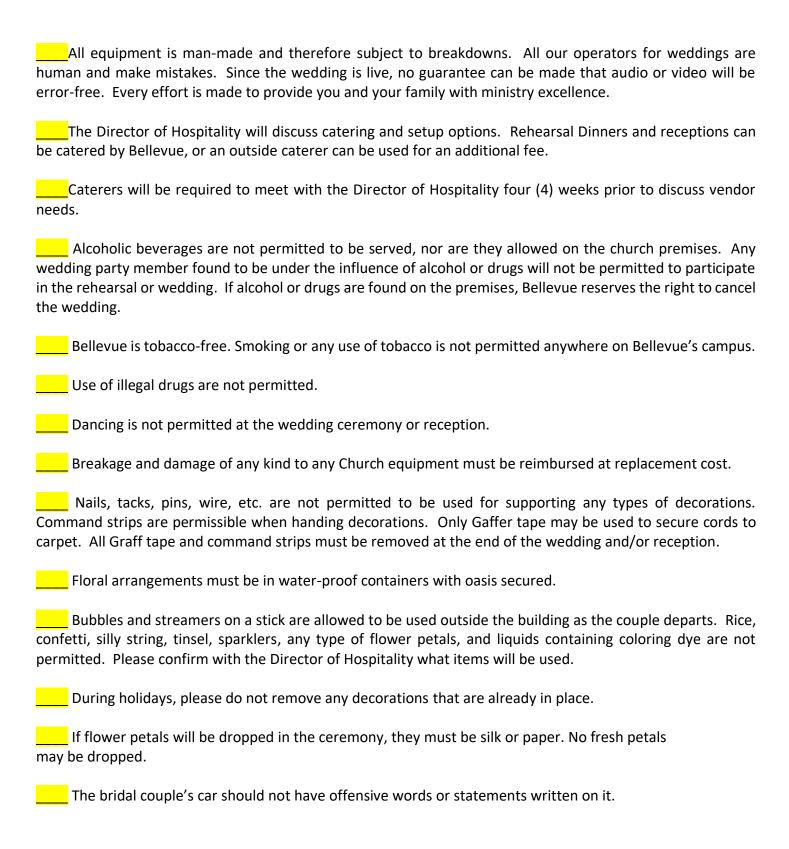
Guest Minister Form for the Wedding Council to review and approve. The deadline to turn in the Guest Minister Form is two (2) weeks after final calendar approval. It is the responsibility of the Bride/Groom to hire, coordinate

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and provide honorarium to the minister they choose.



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We affirm that:

- 1. We understand that the Church does not allow its facilities to be used in a way that materially conflicts with its faith.
- 2. To the best of our knowledge, the purpose for which we are requesting use of the Church's facilities will not contradict the Church's faith, and we commit to promptly disclose any potential conflict of which we are aware or become aware of to Church staff.
- 3. We understand that the Church does not allow its facilities to be generally available to the public, and that our use of these facilities is subject to Office of the Pastor approval, which is conditioned in part on our agreement to the requirements in the Marriage and Wedding Policy, a copy of which we have read and understood. All fees charged are for the express purpose of recovering costs associated with the wedding by making our church facility available and not for the intent of making a profit. Please note the Church does not rent its facilities.
- 4. We understand that upon approval of our facilities use request, we will need to provide a security deposit, and any other fees required by the Church.
- 5. We understand that we will be responsible for any damages to the Church facilities resulting from this proposed use of facilities.
- 6. We understand that the Church believes disputes are to be worked out between parties pursuant to Matthew 18 and 1 Corinthians 6, without recourse to the courts. Accordingly, we agree to attempt resolution of any disputes through Christian mediation.

To protect our Christian witness to a lost world, Bellevue Baptist Church has a continuing long-standing practice of striving to conduct only ceremonies, expecting only employee conduct, and allowing only facility uses which are in harmony with our doctrinal beliefs as expressed in the Southern Baptist Convention's, statement of faith, adopted on June 14, 2000.

We have read the information packet and understand the guidelines. We agree to abide by the conditions stated therein. We will make every effort to ensure that our guests do likewise.

Bride Signature	 	 -
Groom Signature	 	
Date		

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