

Little Rock Baptist Church
7351 Old Alexandria Ferry Road
Clinton, Maryland 20735
(301) 868-5793

Wedding Policy and Procedure

Who Can Be Married At Little Rock Baptist Church

- Members and non-members can have their wedding performed at the Little Rock Baptist Church.
- Little Rock assumes the couple will ascribe both in principle and in practice, to the Christian concepts for marriage in 2 Corinthians 6:14-16, Ephesians 5:22-33 and 1 Peter 3:1-9 (see attachment).

Procedure For Booking A Wedding

- Contact the church secretary by calling the church at (301) 868-5973 or by email at LRBC@littlerock-baptist.org.
- The church secretary will schedule the couple's date if the Pastor is available. If the Pastor or church is not available on the desired date, the couple will be provided with a list of available dates.
- The couple must meet with the Pastor for the initial premarital counseling before the Pastor will agree to perform the wedding ceremony.
- When the Pastor approves the wedding being held at Little Rock, a confirmation letter will be sent to the couple stating that the date and time has been booked.
- The secretary will then schedule the remaining premarital counseling sessions (usually at least three to eight sessions held at least four to six months prior to the wedding).

Requirements

- Request for the use of the church should be made to the church at least six months in advance of wedding ceremony. Exceptions to the six month advance notice may be granted depending on circumstances.
- The church will not be used for weddings on Sundays, Holidays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or on any previously scheduled church commitment dates.
- There will be no dancing, no smoking or use of alcoholic beverages in the church building or on the church grounds.
- Someone will be assigned to assist with the plans for the use of the church and to answer questions.
- A wedding request form must be completed and returned before a wedding can be booked on the church calendar.
- Wedding rehearsal must be scheduled with the church secretary.
- On the day of the wedding, the church will be unlocked two hours prior to the wedding, unless other arrangements have been made in advance.
- Cleanup arrangements must be established in advance.
- Church staff will be responsible for locking the church.

Officiating

- The Pastor or a minister designated by the Pastor will officiate at all weddings. If the couple wishes another member of the clergy to participate, the invitation must be approved and extended by the Pastor. The wedding service shall be under the sole direction of the officiating minister.
- If scheduling permits, permission may also be granted to ministers of other church congregations to conduct wedding ceremonies in the sanctuary.

Decorations

- In decorating the sanctuary, simplicity is best.
- The church will be opened two hours before the scheduled time of the wedding, so flowers can be delivered then.
- Candelabra can be used in the sanctuary with dripless candles only.
- No nails or thumbtacks are to be used on the furnishings in the sanctuary.
- The throwing of rice or birdseed is prohibited, but bubbles or rose petals are permitted.

Music

- Music is an important part of the service. Because a wedding is a worship service, the music for the wedding should be appropriate for the worship of God and expressing the faith of the church.
- Arrangements to use the church instruments must be made between the Pastor and the Director of the Music Ministry.
- The Pastor has final approval of all music for the wedding.
- If the couple can not secure their own soloist or pianist, Little Rock can suggest names, but financial arrangements are between the soloist, musician, and the couple.

Photography

- Flash photographs may be taken during the processional or the recessional only. During the ceremony, existing light photographs may be taken from the back of the sanctuary.
- Pictures may be taken in the sanctuary before or following the wedding ceremony. Pictures taken before the ceremony must be completed one-half hour before the ceremony starts.
- Video recordings may be made, but the camera operator must not cause any interruptions during the ceremony.
- It is the couple's responsibility to instruct their photographer on these policies.

Rehearsal

- Normally, a rehearsal is scheduled for all weddings the evening before the wedding day. If another date is desired, this can be arranged with the Pastor.
- The entire wedding party should attend, along with the parents of the bride and groom. Other friends and family are welcomed to be present.
- Rehearsals are to begin on time, so please make an effort to arrive early if possible.
- Rehearsal dinner in the fellowship hall can be arranged with the Pastor and the Director of the Culinary Ministry.

Marriage License

- The couple must have a valid Prince Georges County marriage license to be married at the Little Rock Baptist Church, and the license must be given to the Pastor or officiating minister no later than the rehearsal time.

Wedding Coordinator

- The couple should have a wedding coordinator to guide the activities in the back of the church.
- The wedding coordinator will work with the ushers as they escort and seat guests, and guides the wedding party during the processional and after the recessional.
- It is essential that the wedding coordinator be present at the rehearsal.

Printed Bulletins

- If printed bulletins for the wedding are desired, it is the responsibility of the couple to have them typed and duplicated.
- If the couple does not have someone to print bulletins, Little Rock can suggest names, but financial arrangements are between the couple and the printer.

Fees

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
Church Use	\$0	(to be determined)
Minister	\$0	(to be determined)
Building Personnel		
Fellowship Hall		

Little Rock Baptist Church

Principles To Ascribe By

Marriage is a civil contract between a woman and a man. For Christians, marriage is a covenant through which a man and a woman are called to live out their lives of discipleship together before God. A marriage is a lifelong commitment made by a man and woman to each other, publicly witnessed and acknowledged by the community of faith.

Corinthians 6:14-16

- 6:14** Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
- 6:15** And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?
- 6:16** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Ephesians 5:22-33

- 5:23** For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.
- 5:24** Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.
- 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;
- 5:26** That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
- 5:27** That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.
- 5:28** So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.
- 5:29** For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord loved the church:
- 5:30** For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.
- 5:31** For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.
- 5:32** This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.
- 5:33** Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

1 Peter 3:1-9

- 3:1** Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;
- 3:2** While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.
- 3:3** Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;
- 3:4** But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.
- 3:5** For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:
- 3:6** Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.
- 3:7** Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.
- 3:8** Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:
- 3:9** Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

