

# Green Valley Baptist Church

## Wedding Policy

### A. Biblical Requirements and Expectations

- a. Each person must give evidence of being a Christian. It is not God's will for a Christian to marry a non-Christian. *"Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness . . . what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?" (2 Corinthians 6:14-15)* During the first meeting of premarital counseling both persons will be asked to give a personal testimony of when and how they placed their faith in Christ for salvation. One area which gives evidence of Christianity is church attendance. One who has little or no interest in the local expression of the Body of Christ should first restore his/her commitment to the church before expecting church members to sanction their marriage. (See Hebrews 10:23-35 and 2 John 9-10) **No wedding will be permitted when one or both are unbelievers or do not attend services.**
- b. Each person must be committed to the permanence of marriage. It is God's will for a marriage to last for life. *"Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let no man separate."* (Matthew 19:6) The Bride and Groom enter into a covenant with each other during the wedding ceremony by pledging vows to one another. *" . . . she is your companion and your wife by covenant."* (Malachi 3:14)
- c. Each person must understand **and practice** the Biblical view of sex. God created sex to be practiced within the marriage covenant. Its purposes are: to procreate children, to strengthen the "One flesh" relationship, and to provide intimate pleasure for the husband and wife, which is only to be shared with each other. All sexual activity outside the marriage covenant is sin. The Bible clearly teaches that fornication is unacceptable behavior for followers of Christ and that God judges this disobedience. Unfaithfulness is the number one reason for divorce; therefore, sexual purity is a vital part of marital stability. If a couple is sexually active outside of a marriage covenant while they date, they are more likely to be sexually active with someone outside their marriage covenant after they are married. To unite a couple in Holy Matrimony who currently engage in fornication is a mockery to God's call for purity and holiness (through sexual abstinence until marriage.) **No wedding will be performed under these circumstances unless repentance and subsequent abstinence are demonstrated.** See Exodus 20:14; Acts 26:20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 18 and 7:1-9; Galatians 5:19-20; Ephesians 5:3-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8. **No wedding will be permitted when the couple is sharing the same residence. If the couple would be willing to live separately we could begin to make plans and provide reasonable assistance to make that possible**
- d. Each person must understand the Biblical teaching concerning divorce and remarriage. God hates divorce and as His followers, we should avoid it. (See Malachi 2:16; 1 Corinthians 7:39-40) Scripture permits divorce for 2 reasons so a faithful spouse can be protected: **1.** A faithful spouse may divorce an unfaithful spouse who has participated in sexual sin such as adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, and incest. (See Matthew 5:32; 19:9; 1 Corinthians 5:1) **2.** If an unbelieving spouse leaves a faithful spouse who is a

believer, divorce is permitted. (See 1 Corinthians 7:12-16) While divorce is permitted in these 2 circumstances, it is not commanded. Hosea 1-3 shows that God would prefer for repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation to occur. The only other consideration in which a divorced person may remarry is if a marriage and divorce occurred before conversion to Christianity. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17) special consideration could be requested when reconciliation is impossible. The scriptures clearly teach that is remarriage occurs after a divorce (without Biblical grounds for divorce), adultery is the outcome. The Bible warns those who consider marrying a divorcee because if the divorce was not Biblically permitted, the person who marries the divorcee is an adulterer as well. (Mark 10:12) Also see 1 Corinthians 7:10-11,15, 39; Romans 7:2-3; Matthew 5:32; Luke 16:18

**God loves all people and offers forgiveness to the repentant sinner. All of us are sinners in need of God's restoration through Jesus. We stand by these marriage requirements not to judge people, but to demonstrate what we teach from the scriptures each time we worship together. God has high standards for the marriage and family relationships because of their great worth. In our society we have devalued these relationships, and it is up to the Christians to stand firmly on the principles found in God's Word because of our love for God, our love for each other and our love for our children.**

## **Green Valley Baptist Church General Wedding Regulations**

1. No wedding or rehearsal will be conducted when any member of the wedding party is under the influence of alcohol. There are to be no alcoholic beverages on the property at any time.
2. Rooms used for dressing for the various members of the wedding party will be provided. This provision will be made through the wedding coordinator and the church office.
3. The dress of the wedding party should be in good taste and should conform to suitable clothing for a religious ceremony.
4. Please request all members of the wedding party and guests to refrain from smoking inside the church buildings at all times.
5. The pastors and members of the Green Valley Baptist Church wish for you a church wedding you can remember with real happiness.

## **Information for the Bride and Groom**

We are delighted you have chosen our church for your wedding. Marriage is sacred and the church will help your marriage to be beautiful and sacred.

1. Setting the date: When you have made a decision about marriage, please contact the church office to arrange for a date. A consultation with the pastor can be set at this time.

2. Working with the Pastor: Please arrange a time with the Pastor for consultation at least 3 months prior to the wedding date. The Pastor will need time to discuss your wedding and to complete pre-marital counseling. A Pastor from Green Valley Baptist Church will officiate at the wedding ceremony.
3. Using a Photographer: A wedding is sacred. *All photography will at the discretion of the officiating pastor of GVBC and the wedding coordinator.* Please inform the pastor if he is to be included in the photographs.
4. **Fees:**
  - a. **Everyone will pay a \$200 deposit which will be refunded after custodial fees at the current rate and any damage costs are paid.**
  - b. **Building use fees:**
    - i. **Active Member: \$150 (Pastoral fee: \$50 (suggested); Sound fee: \$30; Musician fee: \$20; Wedding Coordinator: \$50)**
    - ii. **Non-Active Members: \$500 (Sanctuary: \$150; Pastoral fee: \$100; Sound fee: \$30; Musicians fee: \$20; Wedding Coordinator: \$50; Gym: \$150)**
5. **Green Valley Baptist Church will not be rented to non-members who are not regular attendees of Green Valley.** Arrangements can be made for non-members who regularly attend Green Valley at the discretion of the pastor and staff. Fees will correspond with those of non-active members.
6. Determination as to the status of one's active or inactive participation in GVBC is left to the discretion of the staff.
7. It is the responsibility of the guest party to clean up and remove all decorations that they bring as part of the wedding.
8. Wedding Coordinator: All weddings shall have a Wedding Coordinator who is a person to undertake the responsibility of directing the wedding party to proper places and times. This individual will work with the pastor and should attend the rehearsal. A full schedule of the wedding will be given to the pastor.

# Green Valley Baptist Church Wedding Reservation Form

This form is to be turned into the church office accompanied by fee. No date is confirmed until counseling with the pastor has concluded and the initial fee has been accepted. In the event that the wedding is cancelled, fees will be returned.

Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Groom \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address after marriage \_\_\_\_\_

**Wedding:**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

**Rehearsal:**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

**Reception:**

Time \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Keyboard       Vocalist       Other Musicians

Songs to be used \_\_\_\_\_

Other types of Instrumental music \_\_\_\_\_

We have read the "Green Valley Wedding Policy." We understand the biblical requirements and expectations for marriage. We commit ourselves to these requirements and expectations, demonstrated by our signatures

Groom's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Bride's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor/Staff Approval Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Status: to be determined by the staff of Green Valley Baptist Church.

Active       Inactive       Special

Date of Deposit: \_\_\_\_\_ Put on Calendar: \_\_\_\_\_