

*Severna Park Baptist Church*  
*Wedding Guidelines*  
*Last Updated September 2011*



*Love bears all things, believes all things,  
hopes all things, endures all things.*

*1 Corinthians 13:7*

*506 Benfield Rd.  
Severna Park, MD 21146  
www.spbcmd.com  
410-647-0765*

**Severna Park Baptist Church** considers a wedding to be a service of worship given to the glory of God. The Pastor offers this service in thanksgiving to God and in honor of the couple to be married. The Pastor has the right to refuse to conduct the ceremony if his biblical convictions are violated. The following information is provided to you so that your wedding ceremony will be a meaningful and spiritual experience.

A service of Christian marriage is provided for couples who wish to dedicate their marriage in an act of worship before God. The ceremony will be a witness unto God that this is a Christian service through the sharing of Scripture, prayer and exchange of vows. Everything that is done during the ceremony is for the glory of God.

The marriage vows and the exchange of rings are a solemn vow before God. The marriage covenant is not to be entered into lightly or unadvisedly, but thoughtfully and prayerfully. Premarital counseling is required of all couples desiring to be married at Severna Park Baptist Church.

Family and friends who come to celebrate your wedding ceremony are encouraged to be active participants rather than passive witnesses. They give their blessing to you and your marriage by their presence, prayers and words of encouragement.

### Wedding Guidelines

1. All calendar dates for weddings must be approved by Severna Park Baptist Church (SPBC). Weddings around the Christmas/Easter holidays must accommodate existing décor with little exception.
2. All weddings will be conducted by a SPBC approved church-ordained minister. Please list the minister and contact information if coming from outside SPBC so they can be contacted for review and approval. It is important to remember each minister has his own policies and customs which he will share with you.
3. Premarital counseling is required of all couples desiring to be married and must be arranged with the Pastor. The typical arrangement is three to four - 1 hour long sessions. Speak with the Pastor to arrange scheduling.
4. A wedding rehearsal is conducted to eliminate unnecessary confusion on the wedding day. The time and date will be set during the initial counseling session.
5. NO alcohol or cigarettes are to be used on church property. If alcohol is detected in any of the wedding party, he/she will not be allowed to participate. NO EXCEPTIONS!
6. Photography and video taping are allowed during the ceremony. The pastor will offer suggestions and guidelines during the rehearsal.
7. All music that is to be used during the ceremony must be reviewed by the pastor. If a cassette tape or CD will be used, it must be submitted to the pastor no later than one week prior to rehearsal date.
8. No birdseed, rice, confetti or bubbles are to be used inside church property. Please wait until outside or at the reception for this tradition.
9. Only authorized SPBC personnel will take care of operating heating/air systems, sound and lighting systems.
10. ALL weddings are limited to those approved by the SPBC.
11. It is the responsibility of the user to ensure all outside contractors such as florist, caterers, musicians, photographers, etc. clean up after themselves and remove all equipment same day of wedding.
12. All SPBC furniture or items moved due to wedding ceremony must be put back in order as found.
13. It is the responsibility of the user to ensure all persons present abide by given guidelines. If damages or loss of church property occur due to user or user's guests or user's contractor's then user is responsible.
14. A written contract must be signed by both the bride and groom.  
(Please see other pages)

**Wedding Fees**

**Mandatory for Non-Member's**

1. Building use.....\$300.00
2. **OR** Building use with reception..... \$500.00
3. Security deposit (**refunded if no damages**) .....\$200.00
4. Sound Technician. ....\$100.00
5. Custodial Fees.....\$100.00
6. Pastor.....\$300.00

**Optional**

7. Musical or Solo Accompanist.....\$TBD

Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Members**

*Active Members of SPBC for 6 months or more and in good standing may have number 1 and 2 fees removed. Sound techs, Musical Accompanist and Pastor services may be negotiated upon mutual agreement. Custodial fees cannot be removed. All contracts and deposits must be turned in no later than one month prior to the wedding date.*

*Checks payable to: Severna Park Baptist Church*

**SPBC Church Ministry Opportunities**

**Sunday Morning:**

- 9:30am Bible Study for all ages
- 10:45am Worship Service with nursery

**Wednesday Evening:**

- 6:00pm Children Team KID & Youth Ministry
- 6:30pm Adult mid-week service of spiritual growth
- 7:30pm Worship Team Practice

# WEDDING CEREMONY PLANNING



# **SAMPLE Wedding Ceremony**

This is a typical sample wedding ceremony. In general the pastor is flexible for the ceremony and order. However, he may have some suggestions for how to best transition from one to another. Please select this order with your pastor as soon as possible and schedule a rehearsal date, which is mandatory for all wedding participants. All music will be arranged with one of our accompanists; any CD's or solos in ceremony should be previewed by pastor. Likewise, all personally written vows that will be in the ceremony should be previewed by the pastor.

## **Prelude**

Appropriate wedding music played during seating – music selection

## **Solo**

Optional

## **Seating of Mothers**

(Any others to be recognized?) - music selection  
Lighting candles (optional)

## **Processional**

Pastor, groom & groomsmen enter  
Bridesmaids enter – music selection  
Bride enters – music selection  
Father may be seated or remain center stage

## **Invocation**

Pastor prays

## **Ceremony**

Message  
Pledge of Parents (optional)  
Prayer  
Exchange Vows & Rings  
Lighting of unity candle (optional)  
Scripture reading and/or Solo (optional)

## **Pronouncement**

## **Prayer**

## **Kissing of the Bride**

## **Presentation as Husband & Wife**

## **Recessional**

– music selection  
Ushers to escort *or* Bride & Groom may choose to dismiss while greeting  
Receiving line to greet guests  
Pictures to follow ceremony

## **Pledge of Parents (optional):**

The parents of both Bride & Groom stand.

### *Bride's Parents,*

Do you give permission for the joining together of **Bride & Groom**?

Respond: "We Do"

### *Groom's Parents,*

Do you give permission for the joining together of **Groom & Bride**?

Respond: "We Do"

## **Exchange of Vows:**

Believing that you both have considered the sacredness of the covenant of marriage, I will now ask you to join your right hands.

**Groom**, in taking **Bride** to be your wedded wife you must promise before the Lord and the witnesses present that you will love her, honor her and cherish her in that relationship and leaving all others you will cleave unto her. You have the responsibility to lead her in all things at all times and in all ways as a true and faithful husband as long as you both shall live. Do you make that promise to the Lord and to **Bride**?

Respond: "I Will"

**Bride**, in taking **Groom** to be your wedded husband you must promise before the Lord and the witnesses present that you will love him, respect him, follow his servant leadership in the home, and leaving all others you will cleave unto him. Do you make that promise to the Lord and to **Groom**?

Respond: "I Will"

**Groom**, I'd like for you to look your bride in the eyes and repeat this vow after me to her:

"I, **Groom**, take thee **Bride**, to be my wife, to have and to hold, to love and to cherish, for richer or poorer, for better or worse, in sickness and in health, till death do us part."

**Bride**, I'd like for you to look **Groom** in the eyes and repeat this vow after me to him:

"I, **Bride**, take thee **Groom**, to be my husband, to have and to hold, to love and to cherish, for richer or poorer, for better or worse, in sickness and in health, till death do us part."

## **Exchange of Rings:**

In Biblical covenants there would often be a symbol representing the covenant made between the parties. **Groom & Bride** have chosen these rings as the seal and as the symbol of their wedding covenant.

**Groom**, as a ceaseless reminder of this hour and of the vows that you are making to the Lord and to **Bride**, I want you to place this ring on her left hand and repeat after me to her: "With this ring, I thee wed."

**Bride**, as a ceaseless reminder of this hour and of the vows that you are making to the Lord and to **Groom**, I want you to place this ring on his left hand and repeat after me to him: "With this ring, I thee wed."

## **Comments or Suggestions:**

**Couple's Name & Contact Info:**

**Premarital Counseling:**

Session 1 –

Session 2 –

Session 3 –

Session 4 –

**Wedding Rehearsal Date:**

**Wedding Date:**

*Wedding Guidelines Contract*  
*with Severna Park Baptist Church*

*The following guidelines establish the policy and or procedures under which marriage ceremonies and related functions may be performed at this church.*

- *Severna Park Baptist Church is not responsible for any injuries to persons participating in or attending wedding ceremonies where conduct or action by the person(s) is the cause of same.*
- *Reasonable fees are established (see other pages) and is considered appropriate to cover use of officiants, the facilities, utilities and technical equipment required. Provided there have been no damages, the Security deposit will be refunded.*
- *Provided wedding guidelines 1-14 will be followed.*

*I/We have read and understand the above and agree to comply with all guidelines in this packet, please sign & complete below:*

\_\_\_\_\_ (Bride) \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ (Groom) \_\_\_\_\_ Date

*Address:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Phone/Cell:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Pastor/SPBC) \_\_\_\_\_ Date

*Other Information:*