

WEDDING, FUNERAL, MEMORIAL SERVICE FACILITY USAGE POLICY IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH OCTOBER 2019

1.0 Immanuel Baptist Church (hereafter IBC) Statement on the Biblical and Theological Aspects of Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

- 1.1 The Creation of Male and Female. In Genesis 1:26-27 Scripture states that God created both male and female in his image and after his likeness. Their biological, genetic identity at creation was male and female, and this identity is true of all males and females. Therefore, we reject any redefinition or alteration of males and females by whatever means for the purpose of re-orienting their sexual and gender identity. Furthermore, we reject the legitimacy of any and all LGBTQ+ identities or communities and consider such to be contrary to God's creative purpose for the genetic identity and roles of males and females.
- 1.2 The Pro-creation Mandate. In Genesis 1:28, God commanded the male and female to "be fruitful and multiply." This mandate sets forth the distinct gender identity of male and female, and their proper sexual relationship. Any expression of human sexuality that is not within the context of marriage between a genetic male and female is contrary to Scripture.
- 1.3 Statement on Marriage. According to Genesis 2:24-25 God established the institution of marriage in which a genetic male and genetic female come together in a covenant relationship. Jesus reaffirms this truth in Matthew 19:1-12, where he quotes Genesis 1:27 and 2:24 in response to the problem of divorce. In accordance with Scripture, we affirm that a monogamous marital union between one genetic male and one genetic female is God's design for marriage, and reject contrary expressions including, but not limited to polygamy, bigamy, or polyamory.

2.0 Requirements of the Pastor Officiating any Wedding Ceremony at any Facility Owned or Controlled by IBC

- 2.1 Only pastors who are genetically male will be permitted to officiate marriage ceremonies.
- 2.2 Ordination credentials that will be recognized by Immanuel Baptist Church are as follows:
 - 2.2.1 Ordination by a recognized denomination. a recognized denomination whose doctrinal statement is not in conflict with the beliefs and practices of IBC. This includes agreement with IBC's position on human sexuality and marriage. Proof of ordination must be submitted to IBC's deacon board. IBC reserves the right to determine whether or not the person officiating will be permitted to perform the ceremony.

2.2.2 Ordination by a church. Churches issuing ordination credentials must be doctrinally compatible with the articles of faith of IBC, and in agreement with IBC's position on human sexuality and marriage. Proof of ordination by a local church must be submitted to IBC's board of deacons. IBC reserves the right to accept or reject ordination credentials issued by a local church.

2.3 Any pastor officiating a wedding or facilitating a wedding related activity at IBC must be in agreement with IBC's position on marriage, gender, and sexuality as set forth in 1.0.

3.0 Requirement for Use of All Facilities Owned or Controlled by IBC for Weddings, Wedding Related Purposes, Funerals, and Memorial Services.

All weddings, wedding related activities, funerals, and memorial services shall not be conducted in a manner that is in conflict with any part of this wedding policy.

4.0 Denial or Termination of Usage

If it is discovered that the applicants or their participants have provided incorrect, misleading, or untruthful information on the application, the leadership of IBC reserves the right to terminate or deny usage of any or all facilities owned or controlled by IBC by the applicants or their participants.

5.0 Fees

There is no fee for usage of the facility by members and regular attendees. However, it is recommended that any member of the leadership team who may be used in any capacity for services provided for funerals, weddings, memorial services be given an honorarium.

Fees for assistance with weddings, wedding-related activities, funerals, and memorial services by non-pastoral staff shall be negotiated between the various parties involved.

Rental fee: \$800

6.0 Code of Conduct

6.1 Alcohol Policy: No alcohol may be served in or around the church facilities.

6.2 Smoking Policy: Smoking inside the church facility is prohibited. Smoking is permitted outside the facility provided a non-flammable receptacle for discarded material is provided.

6.3 Drugs Policy: Use of any illegal substances is prohibited in or around the church facilities. Although there are changes in the laws concerning the use of marijuana, no marijuana usage of any kind is permitted in or around church facilities.

6.4 Abusive or foul language, violent behavior, or any other behavior deemed inappropriate by IBC leadership is prohibited.

7.0 Revisions to This Policy

IBC reserves the right to revise this policy in part or whole as it deems necessary.

8.0 Who May Use this Facility for Weddings, Wedding Activities, Funerals, and Memorial Services

8.1 Only members, regular attendees, their families, relatives, and ministry partners aligned with IBC may apply for usage.

8.2 The pastoral staff and/or the Board of Deacons may prohibit usage of all facilities owned or controlled by IBC.

9.0 IBC Pastoral Staff Guidelines for Officiating Weddings

It shall be up to the prerogative of the pastoral staff to determine the guidelines by which they shall be involved in any wedding, wedding-related activity, funeral, or memorial service.

FACILITY USAGE APPLICATION FOR WEDDING, FUNERAL, MEMORIAL SERVICE

I affirm that:

1. I understand that the church does not allow its facilities to be used in any way that conflicts with its. To the best of my knowledge, the purpose for which I am requesting use of church facilities will not conflict with or be in violation of the church's faith, beliefs or moral teachings.
2. I understand that I will be responsible for any damages to the church facilities resulting from this proposed use of facilities.
3. The church believes disputes are to be worked out between parties without recourse to the courts. See, generally, Matthew 18 and 1 Corinthians 6. Accordingly, users of the facility agree to attempt resolution of any disputes through Christian mediation.
4. I have read this entire policy and understand that I will not engage in any behavior, or promote teachings, beliefs, ideas that conflict with this church's Articles of Faith and Statement Concerning Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality.

Name of applicant (Print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name of person officiating (Print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Applicant's contact Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Describe which church facilities you are requesting use of (circle all that apply):

Kitchen

Auditorium

Gym

Date requested: _____

Time requested: from _____ (AM or PM) to _____ (AM or PM)

Application Approved By: _____ Date of Approval: _____

Fee for usage: \$800 Fee must be paid upon submission of the application.