

1. The bride, groom, or one of their parents must be a member or regular attender of FBC. Due to the schedule of our custodial staff and the extent to which our buildings are used for ministries, we regret that FBC facilities are unavailable for weddings outside the FBC church family.
2. Both the man and woman being married must know Christ as their Savior. The marriage must comport with FBC's Statement of Faith as included in our current bylaws. This includes in the doctrine of Man our beliefs on Marriage and Sexuality. FBC's Wedding Policy DOES NOT permit weddings that do not adhere to these policies.
3. For couples to receive pre-marital counseling from FBC they may not be living together or have plans to live together before marriage. FBC recognizes there is no explicit statement such as, "Thou shalt not live together before marriage" in the Bible but we believe it is a wisdom issue before the Lord and does not align with God's design for marriage or family. Here are several principles from Scripture that we believe indicate it is not wise to cohabitate before marriage followed by two links to helpful articles on the topic.
 - a. Living together before marriage harms a couple's testimony as believers are to abstain from every appearance of evil.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 "But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every appearance of evil."
 - b. Living together before marriage makes a couple vulnerable to temptation because of the closeness that cohabiting brings.
 - Matthew 18:7 "Woe to the world because of *its* stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!"
 - 1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.
 - Wisdom avoids putting ourselves and the ones we love in a position where we can be deceived endangering our judgment leading us to fall into temptation.
 - 1 Corinthians 7:2 "But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband."
 - Wisdom teaches living together can give Satan a foothold/opportunity to deceive and tempt believers in sexual immorality.
 - Ephesians 4:27 "and do not give the devil an opportunity."

- 2 Corinthians 2:11 “so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”
- c. Living together before marriage does not create a healthy foundation for an engaged couple. Building their new home upon wisdom from God’s Word helps the newly married couple grow in the Lord together as they build their new home on the wisdom found in the Bible for their good and His glory.
- Psalm 127:1 Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain.

Links to two articles for further reading on Christians and cohabitation:

- <https://www.crosswalk.com/family/marriage/christians-and-cohabitation-what-you-need-to-know.html>
 - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/reasons-not-move-in-partner/>
- We are more than happy to talk through this with any couple that desires more clarity on this issue.
4. FBC pastors cannot officiate a wedding where either of the parties to the wedding have been divorced if the previous spouse of the one divorced is still living, except in the case of a re-marriage of persons who had previously divorced one another and were now being reconciled to one another. (See FBC’s Policy on Divorce and Remarriage below for more details.)
5. If you hope to have an FBC pastor or use FBC facilities, wedding requests must be made at least five months in advance so that you have adequate time to complete premarital counseling and to secure your preferred date.
6. The couple must complete premarital counseling at least 6 weeks prior to their wedding date.