



**EAST COOPER**  
BAPTIST CHURCH



# WEDDING GUIDELINES

Weddings at ECBC & Use of Facility Guidelines

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.  
Genesis 2:24



DEAN HENDERSON  
WORSHIP PASTOR

We are excited for you and are thankful that we, at East Cooper Baptist Church, can be a resource as you continue to prepare for your big day. If you are being married by an ECBC pastor and/or are using our facilities, you are asked to participate in pre-marriage counseling. We are convinced that pre-marriage counseling is a tremendous benefit to you as a couple and can greatly enhance your marriage even before you take your vows. There are several amazing couples here who have been leading pre-marriage classes and discussions for many years. One of the great blessings of the Church is that we are all able to learn from Godly people who have walked before us.

TO BEGIN THE PROCESS, PLEASE REFER TO THE GUIDELINES ONLINE AT  
[EASTCOOPERBAPTIST.COM/WEDDINGS-AND-FUNERALS](http://EASTCOOPERBAPTIST.COM/WEDDINGS-AND-FUNERALS)

The following are the basic standards enacted by the elders to govern the use of the church for weddings:

1. Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, East Cooper Baptist Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Furthermore, our pastors, ministers, and the staff of East Cooper Baptist Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of East Cooper Baptist Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.
2. The bride and groom must sign a statement of faith in accordance with Scripture.
3. The bride, groom, or immediate family member must be a member of East Cooper Baptist Church.
4. We will not, as a church, marry a couple that is unequally yoked (i.e., believer & unbeliever).
5. We may not, as a church, marry a couple when one party or both have been divorced and reconciliation to the first spouse is still open. (Each case is unique and is reviewed for special circumstances and considerations).
6. We will not, as a church, marry a couple when a previous divorce situation gives the elders reasonable doubt that this marriage is of God.
7. We may not, as a church, marry a couple if they have maintained an impure or morally lax relationship or have, in the immediate past, maintained a lifestyle which does not represent Biblical purity.
8. We may not, as a church, marry a couple if this marriage is radically opposed by their family members and/or friends - unique circumstances are considered. (Each case is unique and is reviewed for special circumstances).
9. We will not, as a church, marry a couple if they do not satisfactorily complete the premarital course requirements.





# FACILITIES & FEES

For our facilities and fees,  
please refer to our online facilities agreement form at  
*[eastcooperbaptist.com/weddings-and-funerals](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/weddings-and-funerals)*

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All decorations and decorative equipment must be furnished by the wedding party or the florist. Care must be taken to protect the church property against damage.

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It is the obligation of the bride and groom to make sure all rules are made known to the members of the wedding party, relatives, friends, florists, photographers, etc.

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Couples are required to complete and sign the **Liability Release Waiver** that outlines all property use regulations. Please see all regulations under **Property Use Regulations**.





# THINGS TO KNOW

## - PHOTOGRAPHY -

Photography may be taken with certain limitations.

We require these policies to maintain the sacredness of the ceremony:

- There may be no flash photography during the actual ceremony.
- The wedding party may assemble again in the sanctuary after the wedding for further pictures. Pictures may be taken prior to the wedding.
- The pastor must be consulted regarding any exceptions to these wedding picture policies.
- A video may be taken from the rear of the sanctuary. A video may be taken also from the front of the sanctuary provided adequate foliage is provided, keeping the camera out of sight from the congregation.

## - MUSIC -

Any instrumental or vocal music is the responsibility of the bride and groom. The wedding coordinator is available to assist with contact information for church musicians. Within the ECBC Worship Arts Ministry, we have (but are not limited to) the following musicians available for weddings: traditional vocalists, contemporary vocalists, guitar, keyboard/piano, organ, trumpet/brass, strings/violin/cello, and flute. All music must be approved by the Worship Pastor or his appointee.

*Your audio specialist will be available for all sound support for musicians.  
You will arrange payment for musical services directly with the musicians.*

*Please let the wedding coordinator know if you need assistance with musical selections and/or musicians, and she will provide appropriate contact information.*





## - FLORAL -

Wedding floral arrangements may be left in place for Sunday morning services if appropriate.

- The couple will make arrangements for flowers with a florist of their choice. The ECBC floral guild cannot provide floral arrangements for your wedding.
- Flowers may not be placed in the aisles or on the pews.
- Flower arrangements and candle stands may not obstruct the movements of the ceremony.
- Aisle runners are not allowed.
- Candles, candelabras, and globes are available for use. See "Fees" section for cost.
- Flower petals must not be dropped inside of the sanctuary during the processional or outside after the wedding.
- All flowers and decorations must be removed from the sanctuary immediately after the ceremony.
- Saturday weddings must leave floral arrangements on shelf for Sunday morning.



Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.

*Ephesians 5:25-26*



# FEES

The fee for your wedding onsite at the East Cooper Baptist Church Sanctuary is \$1000. The initial flat fee covers use of the facility for **5 hours** (this includes rehearsal and wedding ceremony). Any additional time used beyond the 5 hours is **\$100 per hour**. The fee begins when the building is first accessed and ends when the building is vacated. The property must be vacated no later than 10:00pm EST. The wedding fees directly support the staff members required to assist in your wedding. For a church the size of ECBC, it is imperative that knowledgeable staff be available for your wedding in order for the day of your union to be as stress-free as possible.

## THE FOLLOWING IS INCLUDED IN YOUR FEE:

- **The Wedding Coordinator:** Stephanie Czerwinski
- **Facilities/Janitorial:** Staff onsite at rehearsal and wedding day. Assists in arranging equipment in sanctuary; provides cleanup before and after your wedding.
- **Audio Specialist:** Provides all sound support for sanctuary on the wedding day. Includes 2 hours, beginning with sound check 1 hour before the wedding and 1 hour for the wedding ceremony. Additional charges will be billed if the time goes over 2 hours (\$125 per hour over - 1 hour minimum).
- **Welcome Center Availability/Use:** The Welcome Center may be reserved for the reception *only if* the wedding ceremony is held at ECBC. The flat fee for use of the Welcome Center is **\$1000 for 2 hours maximum** (does not include setup/breakdown time). The kitchen, gym, gym restrooms, or any ECBC equipment (except for tables, chairs, and linens) **are not included in the fee and are not available for use or rent by ECBC**. The same guidelines for the wedding venue apply to the Welcome Center. No alcohol, no live band, no full meals - finger foods only.

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS: (please pay online at [eastcooperbaptist.com](http://eastcooperbaptist.com))

- \$200 deposit is due at the time you book your wedding/reserve your date.
- \$800 balance, along with your liability/release form, is due no later than 2 weeks prior to your wedding date.
- \$1000 fee, if the welcome center is requested, is also due no later than 2 weeks prior to your wedding date.



STEPHANIE CZERWINSKI

843.532.7736 phone  
843.856.1136 fax  
[stephanie.czerwinski@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.czerwinski@gmail.com)

## WEDDING COORDINATOR

Stephanie is the liaison for all questions about getting married at ECBC. She is available for consultation for all aspects of your wedding onsite, coordinates your rehearsal the day before your wedding, and directs all wedding activities for you on your wedding day. We require that you use ECBC's designated wedding coordinator.





# PASTORS

In order to let us know the pastor of your choice, you must fill out the *Wedding and Premarital Counseling Form* at [eastcooperbaptist.com/weddings-and-funerals](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/weddings-and-funerals).

In addition to filling out the form, please contact the pastor directly for his availability. You can email/contact a pastor by going to [eastcooperbaptist.com/staff](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/staff).

If you are interested in having a pastor outside our ECBC staff perform your wedding, they must be approved by an ECBC pastor.



**Buster Brown**  
Senior Pastor



**Craig Harris**  
Outreach Pastor



**Leland Brown**  
Equipping Pastor



**Danny Beech**  
Next Gen Pastor



**Dave Bruner**  
Missions Pastor



**Dean Henderson**  
Worship Pastor



**Carl Schooling**  
Legacy Ministry  
Director



**Matt Reagan**  
Campus Outreach  
Director



**Steve Tuck**  
Shepherding Pastor



**Van Barnhill**  
Administrative  
Pastor

\*Please note that if you would like Pastor Brown to perform your ceremony, you will need to contact his Executive Assistant, Carol Whiting, at ext. 2006 or [carolw@eastcooperbaptist.com](mailto:carolw@eastcooperbaptist.com).



"Helping broken people treasure Jesus."

**East Cooper Baptist Church**

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[eastcooperbaptist.com/weddings-and-funerals](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/weddings-and-funerals)