

[preachingpoint.org/CS16policies](https://preachingpoint.org/CS16policies)

Notes

Navigating the New Cultural Landscape

# Appropriate Policies and Procedures for Your Church

[preachingpoint.org/CS16policies](http://preachingpoint.org/CS16policies)

## Three views

- Good enough for now
- Better
- Best practices

This information is designed to help autonomous Baptist churches think through vital issues and formulate their own internal policies. This resource, like all past and present resources from the State Board of Missions, is not binding on local congregations, which are entirely self-governing.

**Notice!**

# Marriage

- Good—Nothing is required—yet.
- Better—Biblical marriage a core value
- Best practice—Forward thinking policy

# Marriage: Best practices

- **Bylaws**

- We believe that marriage is a union between one man and one woman, following biblical principles (Gen. 2:19-24, Lev. 18:22, Matt. 19:4-6, Rom. 1:18-27, Eph. 5:22-33, Heb. 13:4). We believe that God sanctions only the union in marriage of a man to a woman. Therefore, this church recognizes only a wedding compatible with those standards.

- Not addressed by the *Baptist Faith and Message*

# Marriage: Best practices

- Bylaws

- Policies

- 1) Due to our belief in the biblical teachings about marriage, same sex couples will not be married in any facilities or on any properties owned by the church.
- 2) Ministers of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church will not perform any same sex marriages whether on or off church-owned properties. Doing so would be grounds for termination.



# Marriage: Best practices

- Bylaws

- Policies

- 1) Due to our belief in the biblical teachings about marriage, same sex couples will not be married in any facilities or on any properties owned by the church.
- 2) Ministers of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church will not perform any same sex marriages whether on or off church-owned properties. Doing so would be grounds for termination.

## Membership

- Good—Pastor meets the person before
- Better—Take time to get to know the candidate before membership
- Best practice—Formal counseling before membership

## Membership practices

- 1) A person not well known by the pastor, delay presenting him/her.
- 2) Vote at the next business meeting. Not at the end of a worship service.
- 3) Watch care until you deal with the individual's decision.

## Membership practices

4) Direct the individual to a spiritual counselor who will deal with to ascertain his/her decision. Following the service, the pastor would meet with the prospective member and the spiritual counselor.

## Membership practices

5) A membership orientation class to assist the prospective member in understanding their commitment to Christ and the church and to explain the church's doctrine, ministries, practices and values.

# Leadership

Good—Pastor part of the nominating

Best practices—A bylaw or policy

“Each paid or volunteer leader shall be Christ like in conduct following the standards in the Bible.”

# Facilities Use

Good

Better

Best practices

<https://alsbom.org/facilities-usage-policy/>

# Facilities Use

## Good

Policy—The use of church facilities shall be limited to individuals or groups who are compatible with the mission and purpose of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.”

<https://alsbom.org/facilities-usage-policy/>



# Facilities Use

Good

No private benefit

No inurement

Fair rental value

No wedding chapel rentals

<https://alsbom.org/facilities-usage-policy/>

## Facilities Use

### Better

Church activities only. Churchwide activities or sponsored church groups.

Weddings are a worship event and permitted only after the couple meets with the senior pastor for counseling.

<https://alsbom.org/facilities-usage-policy/>

# Facilities Use

Best practice

Weddings for members only and only after counseling with the Sr. Pastor.

<https://alsbom.org/facilities-usage-policy/>

Questions?

