

## **BARKSDALE BAPTIST CHURCH FACILITY USE POLICY**

### **PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The facilities of Barksdale Baptist Church have been provided through the benevolence of God and the sacrificial generosity of its members. The facilities of Barksdale Baptist Church include all property owned by the church, whether connected to or independent of the church sanctuary. The facilities of Barksdale Baptist Church shall be used for the purposes of bringing glory to God and the building up and fellowshiping of the Body of Christ. The facilities of Barksdale Baptist Church generally are not available to the public. However, Barksdale Baptist Church has chosen to allow non-member individuals and outside groups to use the church facilities on a case-by-case basis and under certain conditions, as set forth below. Barksdale Baptist Church allows these uses of the facilities for the purpose of being a witness to the world, as a practice of Christian charity, and as an active demonstration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All uses of the facilities of Barksdale Baptist Church shall conform to the beliefs and practices of Barksdale Baptist Churches laid out in the constitution, by-laws, facility use policy, and other governing documents of Barksdale Baptist Church. Any use of the facilities of Barksdale Baptist Church shall be approved by the church's Facility Use Committee. The facilities of Barksdale Baptist Church shall not be used for any purpose that would contradict the beliefs and practices of Barksdale Baptist Church as laid out in the constitution, by-laws, facility use policy, and other governing documents of Barksdale Baptist Church. The facilities of Barksdale Baptist Church shall not be used by any individual or group that holds, professes, advances, advocates, or engages in any belief or practice that would contradict the beliefs and practices of Barksdale Baptist Church as laid out in the constitution, by-laws, facility use policy, and other governing documents of Barksdale Baptist Church.

Barksdale Baptist Church adopts this policy for two purposes. The first purpose is to ensure the integrity of the Barksdale Baptist Church. Barksdale Baptist Church considers the use of its facilities cooperation in the advancing, advocating, or the practice of a belief or practice. Barksdale Baptist Church cannot in good conscience cooperate in the advancing, advocating, or practice of beliefs or practices that are contrary to the beliefs and practices of Barksdale Baptist Church as laid out in the constitution, by-laws, facility use policy, and other governing documents of Barksdale Baptist Church. Therefore, Barksdale Baptist Church cannot and will not allow its facilities to be used in a manner that would violate the beliefs and practices of Barksdale Baptist Church as laid out in the constitution, by-laws, facility use policy, and other governing documents of Barksdale Baptist Church.

The second purpose is to ensure that Barksdale Baptist Church, through the actions of its officers, staff, and members, presents a consistent witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. Any use of the church facilities that is contrary to the beliefs and practices of Barksdale Baptist Church as laid out in the constitution, by-laws, facility use policy, and other governing documents of Barksdale Baptist Church would have an immediate, severe, and negative impact on the advancing and advocating of the beliefs and practices of Barksdale Baptist Church as laid out in the constitution, by-laws, facility use policy, and other governing documents of Barksdale Baptist Church. Likewise, any use of the church facilities by an individual and/or group that holds, professes,

advances, advocates, or engages in any belief or practice that would contradict the beliefs and practices of Barksdale Baptist Church as laid out in the constitution, by-laws, and facility use policy of Barksdale Baptist Church would have an immediate, severe, and negative impact on the advancing and advocating of the beliefs and practices of Barksdale Baptist Church as laid out in the constitution, by-laws, and facility use policy of Barksdale Baptist Church. The above uses of the church facilities would have the potential to cause confusion and scandal within the church and the community because Barksdale Baptist Church considers the use of its facilities to be cooperation in the advancing, advocating, or the practice of a belief or practice, and the use of the facilities of Barksdale Baptist Church could reasonably be perceived as signaling the church's agreement with the beliefs and practices of the individual and/or group using the facilities.

#### **APPROVED USERS AND PRIORITY OF USE**

The Facility Use Committee shall review and approve or deny all requests to use the church facilities as laid out below. Priority shall be given to activities sponsored by Barksdale Baptist Church, requests made by the ministries of the church, groups that are part of the ministries of the church, church members, or the immediate family of church members. The immediate family of a member shall be defined as the spouse, child, sibling, or parent of the member. The facilities and equipment of Barksdale Baptist Church shall be made available to non-member individuals and/or outside groups when the following criteria have been met:

1. The non-member individual and/or outside group shall affirm that the purpose for which the church facilities will be used is consistent with the church's beliefs and practices as laid out in the constitution, by-laws, the facility use policy, and other governing documents of Barksdale Baptist Church.
2. The non-member individual and/or outside group shall submit a completed copy of the "Church Facility Use Request Form" and a signed copy of the "Facility Use, Indemnity, and Hold Harmless Agreement."
3. The non-member individual and/or outside group shall take responsibility for the care and use of the church facilities and equipment requested.
4. The non-member individual and/or outside group shall abide by the constitution, by-laws, facility use policy, other governing documents of Barksdale Baptist Church, and any additional guidance provided by the Facility Use Committee.

#### **FACILITY USE HOURS**

The facilities of Barksdale Baptist Church shall be available on weekdays from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Any use that would occur outside of this period must be approved by the Facility Use Committee.

#### **SCHEDULING EVENTS**

Requests to use the facilities of Barksdale Baptist Church shall be made by submitting the "Church Facility Use Request Form" and "Facility Use, Indemnity, and Hold Harmless Agreement" to the Facility Use Committee. Upon submission of the above forms, the request shall be approved or denied by the Facility Use Committee. The Facility Use Committee shall approve or deny the

request within ten (10) business days of the receipt of the above forms. Upon the approval of the request, the event shall be placed on the church calendar and the facilities shall be reserved. The Facility Use Committee shall notify the individual and/or group who made the request of the approval or denial of the request within ten (10) business days of the approval or denial of the request.

### **FACILITY USE GUIDELINES**

1. The service and consumption of alcohol shall be prohibited in all church buildings and on all church property.
2. Smoking shall be prohibited in all church buildings and within one hundred feet (100') of all church buildings.
3. An individual and/or group shall only use the portion(s) of the facilities that the individual and/or group has received approval to use.
4. Food and beverages shall be prohibited in the Sanctuary, except with permission of the Facility Use Committee.
5. All church equipment, including but not limited to tables, chairs, and decorations, shall be returned its original location, unless other arrangements have been made at least five (5) business days prior to the event.
6. All lights shall be turned off and all doors shall be locked when the individual and/or group has concluded their use of the facilities.
7. The individual and/or group shall be responsible for the clean-up of all facilities used. If the individual and/or group desires that the custodian to clean-up the facilities, a fee shall be added according to the fee schedule laid out below. If after the individual and/or group has departed additional clean-up is required, the custodian shall clean-up the facilities and the appropriate fee added according to the fee schedule laid out below.
8. Abusive, foul, and crude language, violent behavior, drug use, and immoral acts shall be prohibited in all church facilities and on all church property. Any person who acts in the above manners shall be required to leave the church facilities.

### **INSURANCE**

Any use of the church facilities by an individual and/or group for an event not sponsored by the church shall obtain liability insurance in an amount determined by the insurance provider of the church. The individual and/or group shall also sign the "Facility Use, Indemnity, and Hold Harmless Agreement."

**FEES**

Use of the church facilities may be subject to a fee or fees. The appropriate fee or fees shall be determined in accordance with the following table.

	<b>Members</b>	<b>Non-Members</b>	<b>Military Non-Members</b>
<b>Facilities-Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall</b>	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$125.00
<b>Facilities-Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall</b>	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$225.00
<b>Custodian-Church or Fellowship Hall</b>	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
<b>Custodian-Church and Fellowship Hall</b>	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
<b>Sound Technician</b>	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
<b>Special Events/Wedding Coordinator</b>	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
<b>Security Deposit</b>	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$150.00
<b>Musician</b>	Determined by the Individual		
<b>Insurance Rider</b>	Determined by the Insurance Carrier		
<b>Security Officer</b>	Determined by the Bossier City Police Department or the Bossier Parish Sherriff's Office		
<b>Pastor</b>	Determined by the Individual and the Pastor		

## **WEDDING POLICY**

The above statements and fee schedule also apply to weddings. Additionally, the facilities shall **NOT** be used by individuals desiring to be married who are currently living together, of the same sex, or whose marriage would violate the teachings of Scripture<sup>1</sup>, the church constitution<sup>2</sup>, the church by-laws<sup>3</sup>, and any other governing documents of Barksdale Baptist Church.<sup>4</sup>

In a day in which many bear the heartache and tears of failed marriages, Barksdale Baptist Church places extreme importance on couples participating in a series of premarital counseling sessions before the wedding. If a couple desires a member of the Called Staff of Barksdale Baptist Church to officiate their wedding, the couple must agree to participate in a minimum of three (3) premarital counseling sessions. Following the first session, the pastor shall make his decision about performing the wedding. If the pastor decides to officiate the ceremony, the wedding will be scheduled officially on the church calendar. The remaining premarital counseling sessions will be scheduled with the pastor prior to the ceremony. If a couple would like someone other than a member of the Called Staff of Barksdale Baptist Church to perform the ceremony, the individual must be approved by the pastor of Barksdale Baptist Church and the couple must attend pre-marital counseling, conducted either by the guest officiant or a member of the Called Staff of Barksdale Baptist Church. If the counseling is conducted by an approved individual who is not on the Called Staff of Barksdale Baptist Church, then counselor will submit to the Pastor a notarized statement that the required minimum of three (3) pre-marital counseling sessions were conducted. The teachings of Scripture, the church constitution, the church by-laws, or any church policy apply to all weddings performed at Barksdale Baptist Church.

On the marriage license there is the option of a “covenant marriage.” This option requires counseling sessions before obtaining a divorce. Due to Barksdale Baptist Church’s commitment to the permanence of the marriage relationship, all weddings performed at Barksdale Baptist Church must be covenant marriages.

The services of the Minister of Music, pianist, and sound technician are available and should be arranged with ample advance notice to accommodate their schedule(s). If a wedding director is used, the wedding director must meet with the pastor prior to the rehearsal to discuss the wedding ceremony. Arrangements must be made with the church office for the delivery times of florist, caterers, and/or other wedding items. Barksdale Baptist Church is **NOT** liable for the loss or any damage to these items.



Please list the date(s) and time(s) you are requesting use of the above listed facilities.

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If you are requesting use of the church facilities for a wedding or wedding related events, please provide the contact information for the Bride, Groom, and individual officiating the wedding. Please additionally list the religious affiliation of the individual officiating the weddings.

Bride: \_\_\_\_\_

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Groom: \_\_\_\_\_

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Official: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please describe what, if any, marriage counseling or training the Bride and Groom have undertaken.

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**FACILITY USE, INDEMNITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT**

By signing below I, \_\_\_\_\_ affirm that I have received, reviewed, and agree to abide by the constitution, by-laws, facility use policy, and other governing documents of Barksdale Baptist Church and that I have completed and submitted the Facility Use Request Form to the Facility Use Committee.

I also affirm that to the best of my knowledge the use for which I or the group I represent are requesting the use of Barksdale Baptist Church's facilities does not conflict with the beliefs and practices of Barksdale Baptist Church as laid out in the constitution, by-laws, facility use policy, or other governing documents of Barksdale Baptist Church. Should I become aware of any information that might lead me to believe that there might be a potential conflict with the above documents, I shall promptly inform the Facility Use Committee of the information.

I also affirm that to the best of my knowledge neither I nor the group I represent holds, professes, advances, advocates, nor engages in any belief or practice that conflict with the beliefs and practices of Barksdale Baptist Church as laid out in the constitution, by-laws, facility use policy, or other governing documents of Barksdale Baptist Church. Should I become aware of any information that might lead me to believe that there might be a potential conflict with the above documents, I shall promptly inform the Facility Use Committee of the information.

I understand that Barksdale Baptist Church does not generally make its facilities available to the public. I also understand that Barksdale Baptist Church is free to approve or deny the facility use request, with or without cause, and that I will be notified within ten (10) business days of any decision regarding my facility use request.

I also understand that Barksdale Baptist Church does not allow the church facilities to be used for any purpose that would contradict the beliefs and practices of Barksdale Baptist Church as laid out in the constitution, by-laws, facility use policy, or other governing documents of Barksdale Baptist Church. I also understand that Barksdale Baptist Church does not allow the church facilities to be used by any individual and/or group who holds, professes, advances, advocates, or engages in any belief or practice would contradict the beliefs and practices of Barksdale Baptist Church as laid out in the constitution, by-laws, facility use policy, or other governing documents of Barksdale Baptist Church.

I also understand that I or the group I represent shall be responsible for any damage to the church facilities that may occur as a result from the usage of the church facilities. I also understand that I or the group I represent will be responsible for paying all applicable fees as determined by the Facility Use Committee, obtaining any required insurance coverage, and, if necessary, obtaining the services of any third parties.

Should any disputes regarding this agreement arise, I or the group I represent agree to make a good faith effort to resolve these disputes through Christian mediation.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

*For Office Use only:*

*Date received:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Initials:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Approved by:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Printed name:* \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> God's Design for Marriage

1. Marriage is a divinely created relationship. "But at the beginning of creation God made them male and female." (Mark 10:6)
2. Marriage is an exclusive relationship. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife." (Mark 10:7)
3. Marriage is an intimate relationship. "...and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one." (Mark 10:8)
4. Marriage is a lasting relationship. "Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." (Mark 10:9)
5. Marriage involving Christians must be between two Christians. (1 Corinthians 7:39; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

God's Word concerning Divorce and Remarriage

1. God hates divorce because it always involved unfaithfulness to the sacred covenant of marriage that the man and woman have made before Him, and because of the harmful consequences that it brings to the couple and their children. (Malachi 2:14-16)
2. However, while divorce is never commanded or required under any circumstances, the Lord does allow for divorce under two specific circumstances, namely adultery (Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9) and abandonment (1 Corinthians 7:15). If a divorce has occurred for any other reason, the Bible instructs the individual to either remain unmarried or reconcile to their spouse (1 Corinthians 7:10-11).
3. If a divorce has been obtained on Biblical grounds (Adultery or abandonment), then remarriage is permitted. Also, in cases of death of a spouse, the surviving spouse is free to remarry, but only to another Christian (Romans 7:1-3; 1 Corinthians 7:39).
4. The only other time that such a person would be free to remarry is if the former spouse remarries or dies, with would make reconciliation impossible.

<sup>2</sup> **Statement of Biblical Authority and Statement of Faith (Barksdale Baptist Church Constitution Article III).**

The Holy Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all we believe. This church subscribes to "The Baptist Faith and Message" as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000. This church also subscribes to the "Statement on Marriage and Sexuality" adopted May 26, 2013. These statements do not exhaust the extent of our faith. For purposes of church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our pastors and deacons are the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

<sup>3</sup> **XVIII. The Family (*The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000*)**

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate

companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

*Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.*

#### **<sup>4</sup> STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY (Barksdale Baptist Church Constitution)**

We believe that term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one’s sex or disagreement with one’s biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

Adopted January 17, 2016

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**CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION**

THE FOREGOING FACILITY USE POLICY has been duly accepted [as amended] this 17th day of January, 2016, by the membership of the Barksdale Baptist Church.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, witness the hand of the undersigned duly authorized persons on such date.

/s/ Calvin T Hubbard

Name *Calvin T. Hubbard*  
Position or office *Pastor & Moderator*

/s/ Johnny Hammons

Name *Johnny Hammons*  
Position or office *Vice Chairman Trustees*

/s/ David Robinette

Name *David Robinette*  
Position or office *Chairman Deacons*