

A Guide to Planning Your Marriage Ceremony At Crescent Fort Rouge United Church

**525 Wardlaw Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3L 0L9
(204) 475-6011 Fax 475-1154**

E-mail: cfruc@mts.net Website: www.crescentfortrouge.ca

Ministers: (Rev.) barb janes (Rev.) Irene Greenwood

Music Director: Don Askholm

Office Administrator: Sharon Silcox

Whether you've never left home, you've lived with your partner for several years or you've been married before, the decision to get married is a decision to enter a new relationship. Crescent Fort Rouge United Church performs marriages for same-sex and opposite-sex couples.

In asking Crescent Fort Rouge United Church to celebrate your marriage, you are making several statements:

- that you take the Christian faith seriously, and plan to be (or continue to be) active members in the church
- that your wedding ceremony will take the form and reflect the theology of a United Church of Canada worship service
- that your relationship upholds the Christian value of equality between the sexes/in relationship
- that you are asking the church (your faith community) to uphold and support you in this new relationship

If these things are not true for you, there are alternatives open to you. Justices of the Peace and Marriage Commissioners will perform wedding ceremonies in homes, parks, hotel banquet rooms and other settings (Check the Yellow Pages). If you have no desire for a connection with the church beyond your wedding day, please give serious thought to other options.

Marriage preparation is strongly recommended (most people do more research before they buy a new car than before they get married!). We recommend the Marrying Well Seminars (email: marryingwell@mts.net).

Service details... When you meet with the minister who will be presiding at your wedding, she will outline the options for the worship service. All wedding services at Crescent Fort Rouge have the following things in common: reading(s) from the Bible, blessing of the parents/family (the bride is not "given away"), and blessing of the friends/community. Throughout the wedding ceremony, you will be referred to by your Christian names. You will not be announced as "Mr. And Mrs. Chang" but as "Susan and Paul, who are now joined together in Christian marriage." Because you and your witnesses will be signing a legal document, no intoxicating substances may be consumed prior to the ceremony; intoxication could render the contract null and void! All those signing the documents must be of legal age.

Children: If one or both of you are bringing children into this new relationship, consider their involvement in the wedding ceremony. In some cases, children and their new step-parent exchange vows and rings. Your children could also participate as ring-bearer, flower-girl, scripture reader, usher. Some children/youth have read a message to their new step-parent that they have written themselves. In other cases, the children may be ambivalent about (or even

hostile to) this new relationship and their attendance may be asking a lot of them. Give it thought, and discuss with your children what would feel comfortable for everyone.

In choosing a ring bearer and/or flower girl, keep in mind what is fair. While we welcome and delight in children, you should really consider whether it is fair to ask a two year old to walk down the aisle in strange clothes in what may be a strange environment! Remember you're also asking that same child to stay in good clothes and not run around or do anything else kids like to do most of your wedding day – to say nothing of the endless photography sessions! Some children will enjoy just such a thing, for others, it is a trial.

A recent death may be honoured by lighting a memorial candle in memory and to invoke the spirit of a loved one. This may be done by the couple or the minister, with the minister making a simple announcement (e.g.: “This candle is being lit in memory of and to welcome the spirit of Edward’s grandfather, George.”). This has been a moving and important part of the ceremony for those who have experienced a recent loss.

Time Churches are busy buildings with many demands, both on staff and on space. Be on time for both the rehearsal and the wedding itself – this is simply respectful. Your ushers should be at the church 30 minutes before the ceremony, groom and attendants 15 minutes prior, and bride and attendants 5 minutes prior. We anticipate that a wedding service booking entails an hour and a half (church open half hour prior to service, service of about half an hour, and the last 30 minutes for photos). If you need a longer time period, there will be a surcharge of \$25 to cover the cost of the caretaker’s time (please arrange in advance).

The Rehearsal time will be set in consultation with the minister and the church office, and all the participants should attend (including ushers, readers, parents). The rehearsal will not take long (especially if everyone is on time!), but will give everyone a sense of the flow of the service and the choreography. The organist does not attend wedding rehearsals.

Music is a vital part of Christian worship. Our Music Director, Don Askholm, meets with wedding couples to choose together the music that is appropriate both for you as a couple and for a worship service. Crescent Fort Rouge United has both a pipe organ and a grand piano. Some couples have had friends offer music (e.g. string quartet, harp, violin or flute). If you have a musician friend who can play the organ, that person must secure permission to use the organ from Don Askholm. Classical, sacred music, gospel, or hymns are all appropriate selections – other choices at the discretion of Don Askholm and the minister. Upon request, a church soloist can be arranged through the Music Director for an additional fee. Pre-recorded music is not permitted (save it for the reception).

Some decisions to make prior to the rehearsal:

Options for The Processional:

- a) The groom and attendants and minister wait at the front; the bride is preceded down the aisle by her attendants and then enters with her parents/mother/father.
- b) The attendants enter down the aisle in couples. The bride and groom enter last as a couple.
- c) The attendants enter as couples. The groom enters escorted by his parents. The bride enters escorted by her parents.
- d) Some couples choose to be escorted by their children.

Choose your Scriptures...

A list of scripture readings is provided for you (those marked * are the most popular). Choose at least one, and decide who will do the readings. If you choose someone other than the minister, that person should attend the wedding rehearsal to practice reading in this space.

Suggested Scripture Readings...

* I Corinthians 13:1-13

* John 2:1-11

* Ruth 1: 1-8, 14-17

Psalm 100

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Song of Solomon 1:15 – 2:4 (or 2:5)

1 John 4:7-12

Matthew 19:4-6

Driving Miss Daisy...

Often the rehearsal becomes the time to worry about who is picking up Miss Daisy or Grandpa and who is driving who in whose car...Please make these decisions ahead of time! Parking is tight, but there are spots along the lane behind the church for the bridal party's vehicles. The lane parking is marked "Handicapped", but is available for your use during the wedding.

Flowers and Décor...

Churches are designed to be beautiful. The decorations present in the church (banners, pulpit fall, Christmas tree) will not be changed for your wedding, but will reflect the current Christian season (e.g. – Lent, Creation, Advent). If you wish flowers for your wedding, please arrange delivery with the Church office administrator. Any further decorating you wish must be arranged in advance through the Church office administrator.

Confetti/Rice/Bird Seed...

are not permitted at Crescent Fort Rouge United due to environmental concerns. Some couples choose bubbles as an alternative.

Photo & Video Policy

The wedding is a service of worship. After the bridal party has entered the sanctuary, the minister will ask the congregation to refrain from taking any further pictures until the bridal party is leaving the sanctuary.

The official Photographer is permitted to move around on the main floor but not on the chancel/platform in order to take pictures during the procession and recession. During the service, the Photographer may take photos without flash from the balcony. No photos are to be taken during the actual signing of the documents; these will be re-enacted after the ceremony, if desired.

The Videographer is permitted to move around on the main floor, but not on the chancel/platform in order to film the procession and recession, as well as the signing of the documents. Otherwise, the Videographer will remain in one location during the course of the worship service. No supplementary lights are allowed.

It is your responsibility to ensure your photographer/videographer is aware of and will respect this policy.

CHURCH FEES (Effective September 1, 2008)

Total fee is **\$525.00** including a \$50.00 deposit to confirm the booking. The balance is due to the church at least two weeks before the wedding. If the caretaker is required to be at the rehearsal or to stay after the service for longer than the time allotted, there will be surcharges for the extra time required. (Please arrange in advance). A church soloist can be arranged through the Music Director for an additional fee of \$50.00.

Church	\$200.00
Minister	150.00 Honorarium
Organist	125.00 Honorarium
Caretaker	<u>50.00</u> Honorarium
Total	\$525.00

CHECK LIST

- **Licence** can be obtained at the Department of Vital Statistics (254 Portage Ave, 945-3701) or most florist, bridal or jewelry stores. The wedding cannot be performed without this document. Please bring it to the church **one week** prior to your wedding.
- **Book meeting with Don Askholm (489-5584)** at least 2 months prior to your wedding.
- **After reading this material, book meeting with minister**, 2 months prior to your wedding
- **Set time for Rehearsal**
- **Pay balance of fees to church two weeks prior to wedding**
- **Negotiate with Sharon Silcox (office administrator) re: any floral delivery, decoration time, etc.**