



Wedding Policy

at

Central Presbyterian Church Hamilton

*As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves
with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.*
Colossians 3:12

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The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Athanasiadis, Minister
The Rev. Lois Whitwell, Minister

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Introduction

Central is a beautiful sanctuary in which to celebrate your wedding. Christian marriage bears witness to the love of God for the whole of creation and for the flourishing of life in community. The marriage liturgy attempts to express, through words and actions, the church's understanding of Christian marriage.

A wedding is, at its very heart, a service of worship before God and with all those gathered for the ceremony. The marriage service begins with a call to worship and continues with prayers, readings from the bible, and a statement on the gift of marriage as understood within the Christian tradition.

We ask couples who are planning to be married meet with one of the ministers at Central. We recommend that couples enroll in a local marriage preparation course. Several agencies offer this and the Minister of Central will provide information to you. The ministers of the congregation must approve of all weddings and music director must agree to any use of the organ or piano. A guest clergy officiant or assistant may be considered by the minister and the use of the sanctuary approved by Session.

In accordance with the policy of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Session of Central Presbyterian Church holds two parallel definitions of marriage and recognizes that faithful, Holy Spirit filled, Christ centered, God honouring people can understand marriage as a covenant relationship between a man and a woman or as a covenant relationship between two adult persons.

Guidelines for Music

As the date of your marriage approaches you will be put in touch with Central's Director of Music. He will advise and suggest suitable music for preludes, processionals, recessionals, hymns and solos. Church soloists may be available to sing upon request (paid separately). Central's Director of Music must approve all musicians using the organ or piano.

Wedding Rehearsal

The wedding rehearsal is conducted by the Minister. It usually takes place the day prior to the wedding day. The immediate wedding party is expected to attend. Flowers may also be brought that evening or on the day of the wedding one hour prior to the service. Candle holders and candelabra are available for your use; candles will need to be 12" long and dripless. A Custodian will be present at your rehearsal, making sure that all is ready and assisting with procedures.

Fees

The church will provide:

- Sanctuary for the conduct of the wedding, for up to 750 guests for up to 4 hours at a cost of \$600.00 (this includes a one-hour rehearsal prior to the wedding date).
- The services of a minister to plan the service with you, conduct a rehearsal and conduct the wedding in accordance with the laws of province for a fee of \$350.
- The services of an organist at a fee of \$250.00. With a \$100.00 additional fee if the organist is requested for the rehearsal.
- Custodial services at a fee of \$125.00.

All fees are payable to the church one week prior to the wedding date.

Additional Considerations

The couple will provide a marriage licence at last one week before the wedding.

The marriage will be recorded in the marriage register of the congregation and filed with the appropriate government department in a timely manner.

Use of any area of the church in addition to the sanctuary to be considered as additional rental (i.e. not included in sanctuary fee).

No confetti or other material may be thrown within the church or on church property.

Decorations (ribbons, flowers etc.) may be placed in the sanctuary provided they do not cause any damage, and must be removed following the service.

Parking is limited at Central Church. Most of your guests will need to find street parking.

If you would like to find out about more about celebrating your wedding at Central, please contact the church office at 905-522-9098 or info@cpchamilton.ca