

The Covenant of Marriage

When two people enter into covenant, pledging to live together in loving partnership, it's time to celebrate. It's a special moment for you and for your families, as well as for the community. At Robertson-Wesley we endeavour to support both opposite and same-gender couples as you prepare not only for your wedding but for your marriage as well.

Booking a Wedding

The first step in the process of making wedding arrangements is to contact our Office Manager. She will provide you with information about when the church is available and costs involved.

Minister

After the wedding is booked, one of the ministers will be in touch with you to arrange a meeting. There are two ministers at Robertson-Wesley. Both are licensed to perform marriages.

Marriage preparation

Marriage preparation is mandatory. Couples may choose a marriage preparation program available through several agencies in Edmonton. In particular, we recommend:

- The Family Service Association of Edmonton (The Family Centre)
#20, 9912-106 Street,
phone 780-423-2831 or 780-917-8205
www.the-family-centre.com
- Community Counselling Centre
#202, 10534 – 124 Street,
phone 780-482-3711;
www.pastcoun.com

License

Couples must have a marriage license in order to be married. Licenses are obtained at Provincial Registry Offices or the Alberta Motor Association. The license is valid for 3 months. We ask that the license be delivered to the officiating minister about a month before the wedding.

The Ceremony

Your wedding ceremony includes a blend of traditional elements and ones that are special or unique to you as a couple. The minister will provide you with materials that give you a choice among various common elements such as prayers, vows, and readings. The ceremony can be personalized with the addition of special music, poetry, and the participation of friends or relatives (e.g., reading scripture). When children are in the wedding party, ensure that they are old enough to perform their duties.

Both the church sanctuary and chapel are available for the service. The chapel holds a maximum of sixty guests.

Timing

Robertson-Wesley can be a busy place for weddings with as many as three weddings on a given day. We schedule weddings 90 minutes apart to give each wedding enough time for guests to arrive and depart again. It is important that weddings begin on time.

Music

All music is chosen in consultation with the Director of Music, and an appointment should be made with her soon after your

initial meeting with the minister.

Normally, the services of Robertson-Wesley's organist are utilized at all weddings which require organ music. Other organists may be involved but only with the permission of the regular organist and in such cases the regular organist still receives the designated fee.

Although many people are happy to have organ music only, there are many other options available, such as the addition of a trumpeter or other instrumentalist, the use of the piano, the singing of one or two songs by a soloist, or the inclusion of a string ensemble. In order for your ceremony to be performed as beautifully and smoothly as possible, we recommend you employ professional musicians for this purpose. The Director of Music will be happy to give advice in this regard, and make whatever arrangements are necessary. It is important that she be consulted before an instrumentalist or singer is invited to perform.

In keeping with the musical tradition of Robertson-Wesley, recorded music may not be used in the ceremony.

Candles

A common element in weddings is the lighting of a wedding (or unity) candle. If you want this element included in your wedding, we ask that you provide the candles and holders. Candelabra are available for rental. Any other rental candles must be encased in glass.

Photography

Photographs may be taken during the processional, signing of the register, and the recessional; however, we ask guests not to photograph the actual ceremony, both because it can be distracting to other guests, and because we feel that when people are photographing a ceremony they are not fully *attending*. An exception to this may be made for an official photographer and/or video operator. These may be permitted to photograph throughout the ceremony on the condition they do not block anyone's line of sight. Photographers are asked to consult with the minister before the ceremony.

It is usually possible to arrange to come back into the sanctuary after the wedding to take posed photographs. This should be arranged with the minister in advance.

Facilities

The church is opened one hour before the start of your wedding. If you require access to the church earlier, arrangements should be made with the church office during regular office hours. Wedding guests are asked *not* to use rice or confetti in or around the church, because these can be very difficult to clean up. We normally reserve parking space in front of the church for the wedding car. The sanctuary is wheelchair accessible. Our sound system has hearing assistance equipment for people who are hard of hearing.

Flowers and Other Decorations

The church provides stands that may be used for wedding flowers. Flowers, ribbons, etc., may be used for the pews, but we ask they

be hung, not taped or attached in any way that might damage the pews. Flowers can be delivered the morning of the wedding.

Documents

A marriage certificate (usually part of the marriage service booklet) is issued to you by the church at the end of the service. A government issued marriage certificate can be obtained through Vital Statistics.

Rehearsal

A wedding rehearsal, which lasts 30 to 60 minutes, is typically held on the evening before the wedding. The scheduling of the rehearsal should be discussed with the minister. The rehearsal should be attended by the couple, the attendants, the couple's parents, ushers, and anyone else participating in the ceremony (e.g., soloist, reader, etc.). If the official photographer or video operator is amateur (i.e., not professional, e.g., a personal friend) it is recommended he/she attend the rehearsal.

Alcohol and Narcotics

It is illegal for the minister to marry anyone who is under the influence of alcohol or narcotics; therefore if either person getting married arrives at the church intoxicated, the wedding will be cancelled. If alcohol is to be part of your big day, we recommend it be limited to after the wedding for everyone involved.

Fees

For information regarding the cost of a wedding, please contact our Office Manager at 482-1587 or email her at mail@rwuc.org.

March 2009



at Robertson-Wesley



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