

**UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Pembina Parish
Zion Calvin & St Paul's**



*Information & Policy for
Weddings*

TO THE PROSPECTIVE COUPLE,



Congratulations on your forthcoming marriage! We welcome the opportunity to celebrate your commitment of marriage within the Christian community of Zion Calvin, Darlingford or St Paul's, Morden.

We affirm that marriage is a gift of God through which two people make a covenant with one another and with God in the full intention of a lifelong commitment. Since 2005 Pembina Parish has been pleased to welcome same-gender couples for marriages services.



We extend our best wishes to you, and pray that God will bless you with a happy and fulfilling life together!

***The Ministers,
Pembina Parish.***

Our

Bookings and Arrangements:

Bookings for weddings are to be made through the ministers. A meeting will be required before arrangements can be completed and booked. At that time, an hour for the wedding should be set. If a change in the hour for the wedding is made, the couple being married should notify the minister before a new time is finally determined. Early reservations are recommended. It may not be possible to accommodate a late request for a wedding. We recommend that the couple contact the minister at least 3 months in advance of the date to allow ample time and no disappointments. The couple will be invited to a meeting with the minister to discuss their plans, answer any questions and offer information regarding a marriage service in/by the church. Further meetings with the couple may be planned to discuss readiness for marriage, some of the characteristics of a Christian marriage and to plan the wedding service.

Marriage Preparation Program:

As part of the preparation for marriage we would strongly

encourage couples to attend a seminar which will be of considerable benefit for those planning to marry. We will give the couple more information about this at the first meeting.

You do not need to be a member to be married in our church, nor do we exclude the remarriage of those who have been divorced. We do however expect commitment to a Christian marriage where God is recognized as a partner in your union and where life-long commitment is the intended goal.

The Wedding Service:

The marriage service is a service of worship directed toward God. It should be in keeping with the traditions and practices of Christian worship. The minister has a selection of wedding prayers and vows available to assist you in planning a wedding ceremony that is meaningful and best expresses your commitment to one another.

If a couple wishes to celebrate the Sacrament of Communion during the service, this can be arranged.

Hymns & Readings:

Please feel free to choose your own suitable hymns for your wedding service. There is lots of wonderful music to choose from. You may use the church hymnbook on your wedding day, or you may like to have your own hymn sheets printed, - just check on copyright. Please bear in mind that music should be suitable for a Christian service of worship. All vocal and instrumental music (including organ music) should be chosen in consultation with the minister.

If bulletins are desired, they are available through the church office. Other arrangements for bulletins can also be made, in consultation with the minister.

If you would like any special readings, - from the bible, or readings or poems from elsewhere, then bring them along and speak to the minister about your ideas. The couple may choose persons to read scripture or participate in other ways.

Who Will Conduct The Service?

Ideally, the minister who has done the marriage preparation with the couple will officiate at your wedding. Both of the team ministers in Pembina Parish are authorized by the Church and Province to conduct weddings. Please be prepared for either one to conduct your wedding, if necessary, due to unforeseen circumstances.

Clergy from another church may participate in the ceremony if the couple so requests, however, all marriages in the church will be presided by one of our resident ministers.

Legal Requirements:

All couples need a valid license issued by the Province of Manitoba. This must be obtained at least 24 hours before the marriage ceremony. The license is valid for 3 months. When the wedding is conducted by a minister of religion, that person acts on behalf of the government to legalize the marriage by signing and forwarding the appropriate forms to the Division of Vital Statistics. Two witnesses are required for the ceremony. Both of these witnesses must be at least 18 years of age.

The couple and their wedding party must not show any indication of alcohol or drug consumption on the day.

Weddings fees / costs related to your wedding:

Our church has on-going expenses related to the daily functioning of our congregation and the upkeep of our building. When you choose to be married here, we ask you to make the following contributions to these expenses.

Rehearsal:

We would normally schedule a wedding rehearsal in order to "walk through" the wedding from beginning to end. **All** those who will be participating in the ceremony should attend. The wedding rehearsal. The minister will conduct the rehearsal.

Use of sanctuary & administrative fees: \$150

Caretaker: \$50

Pianist/Organist: \$70

Minister's Honorarium: \$100

(The minister does not have a set fee, since weddings are a part of the work of the church. However, ministers usually give extra time for the marriage preparation sessions, the rehearsal and the service.) Therefore, a monetary gift of appreciation is not required but would be acceptable. We would suggest \$100)

\$370

For weddings in other venues: \$150 plus any travel expenses

Full-colour bulletins
(if required) \$ 30

Photographer:

The photographer should introduce him/herself to the minister well before the ceremony. At this time the Minister will clarify the requirements. No pictures are to be taken during the service, by the photographer or any members of the congregation. An opportunity can be provided for the wedding party to pose for pictures after the service. Video cameras must remain unobtrusive and in a stationary position.

Decorations:

If the sanctuary is decorated, it is the responsibility of the wedding party to remove the decorations and return the sanctuary and any other rooms to their previous state.

Candles:

Candelabra are allowed at the front of the sanctuary but candles are not permitted along the aisles.

The Reception:

There is no expectation that you invite the minister to the reception after your wedding. However, if you wish the Minister & spouse to attend your wedding reception and/or say the blessing before the meal, please communicate this as soon as possible. Please also remember that the Minister may have other commitments which make it impossible to be at a reception.

Confetti:

We request that no confetti be thrown in the church or anywhere near the doors. If confetti is to be used, please ensure that it is bird and environmentally-friendly (no rice, plastic; no balloons!) - bird seed, bubbles, flower petals or small paper confetti are fine.

In Closing:

We hope the advice in this booklet is helpful, and will answer many of the questions you have about your wedding day.



CHECK LIST

- Church / Minister booked
- Wedding Rehearsal date: _____
- Marriage Preparation booked
- Marriage License bought
- Reading / Hymns chosen
- Fees Paid
- Arrangements made for flowers to be delivered

If you have any questions or queries,
please call the minister or the church office.



Contact details

Ministers

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