



The United Church in Meadowood

1111 Dakota Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2N 3T7

Church Phone: 204.256.7002

Email: ucm@ucim.org

Minister's Name: _____

Accompanist: _____

Section 1: What we have to offer

Section 2: Wedding Information

Section 3: Marriage Policy of The United Church in Meadowood Fees

Section 4: Wedding Fees

Section 5: Planning Your Wedding Service options

Section 6: Form to be completed and returned to office

Section 7: Check list – Couple

Check list - Ushers

****DEPOSIT IS REQUIRED (ASAP) TO HOLD
WEDDING DATE**

Updated July 2013

What We Have To Offer

- A minister licensed to perform marriages
- Marriage Preparation course, **mandatory**
- Grand piano with accomplished pianist with a wide range of music available
- Arrangements may be made with accompanist to also perform as a soloist (extra fee for this service to be arranged with accompanist).
- Open style sanctuary, with padded chairs, which will seat approximately 200 people.
- Facilities for recording CD's of the event
- Infra-red hearing sets available
- Candelabra(s) available
- Waiting rooms for gathering prior to processional
- A Fellowship Hall and kitchen for a reception. **Non-alcoholic.** Catering to be arranged.
- A court yard immediately off the sanctuary, ideal for pictures or gathering.
- A large parking area for guests
- A large lawn area

Wedding Information

The information included in this section has been prepared to help you arrange a wedding at The United Church in Meadowood. It is important to remember that a wedding in a church is a religious ceremony, and your wedding will be treated, by us, as a Service of Worship.

Clergy:

Our staff clergy personnel will officiate at your wedding. Any exceptions to this must be approved by The United Church in Meadowood Council.

Date and Time of Wedding:

Call the Church office to set a tentative date and time as far as possible in advance. - When there is more than one wedding per day, the couple who paid deposit first, has preference as to time.

Weddings are spaced two hours apart.

- Arrangements to meet with the officiating minister should be made as soon as possible after setting tentative date with office.

- Date and time will be confirmed when deposit is paid.

- All names of couples desiring marriage will be presented to The United Church in Meadowood Council for final approval. (Council meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month with exception of July and August.)

Marriage Preparation Program:

Marriage Preparation is designed to assist a couple to deepen and enrich their relationship and to develop the interpersonal skills essential to keep that relationship strong.

One of the criteria for being married at The United Church in Meadowood (see Marriage Policy) is that the couple will attend a Marriage Preparation Course

Costs:

See Fee Section 4 (**Fees to be at church 2 weeks prior to wedding**)

* When our Clergy are on holidays and one of the neighbouring ministers will officiate at your wedding, it is **your responsibility** to check as to what their fees may be.

* We ask that you bring the appropriate cheques (sanctuary fees; events assistant, bulletins, if any; minister, accompanist) and your license to the Church Office at least **two weeks prior** to your wedding.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS:

In the Province of Manitoba you are required to have a valid Marriage License, which may be obtained up to three months prior to the wedding - but has to be purchased at least one day before your wedding. If you are divorced, by law, the issuer must inspect your Decree Absolute.

A Marriage Package may be obtained at most jewelers and includes the Marriage licence application of Vital Statistics, information on name change, and information on obtaining final marriage documents. Information you will need for the Vital Statistics Forms include:

Both parties' birth places and dates, your parents' full names (including mother's maiden name) and their birth places.

* At the conclusion of the Wedding Service, couples will receive a Marriage Certificate from the Church, which is **not** a legal document. If couples also wish to have a legal document from the government they need to write to the Division of Vital Statistics to obtain a copy

* If either spouse is under 18 years of age, Consent Forms must be signed by the parents of the minor. No person under 16 years of age may be married without a special dispensation from a Judge of the Magistrates' Court.

* No Minister or Marriage Commissioner can legally conduct a Wedding Ceremony if either of the couple being married is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

WEDDING BULLETINS (ORDER OF SERVICE):

Options:

- 1) Do not have any bulletins
- 2) Make and print your own bulletins. *** Please provide a draft bulletin to the church office for approval at least two weeks prior to the wedding AND prior to printing.*
- 3) Pre-printed Wedding Bulletins, ordered through the church office, at least one month prior; \$15/100, printing included.

DECORATIONS IN THE SANCTUARY:

Certain times during the church year, (i.e. Advent) the Sanctuary may be decorated to enhance that particular season. Since this is part of the worship of the congregation, you are asked to leave these religious symbols in place. The Communion Table and other furnishings may be moved with permission. Pew Markers, candelabras (dripleless candles only, plastic should be under any candles sitting on the carpet); baskets of flowers, etc. are most welcome. The church, however, does not supply any of these items. **Items used to decorate the sanctuary, including silk petals, tulle, pew bows, etc must be removed at the conclusion of the service.**

INTERVIEWS:

You will need to meet with clergy approximately twice before your wedding; in these meetings you will be filling out forms, discussing your wedding and planning the service.

WEDDING DAY:

Guest book attendants and ushers should be at the church at least 30 to 45 minutes before the wedding time. It is very important that your wedding begin on time, since the church schedule is often a busy one.

PICTURES:

Please have people refrain from taking pictures during the Service of Worship. However, they may be taken during the Processional, as the Register is being signed, and during the Recessional. Video taping may be done from a fixed position, prearranged with the officiating minister.

*The Sanctuary may be used for pictures following the service.

ACCOMPANIST:

The United Church in Meadowood's accompanist has a first right of refusal. If you need a list of pianists to contact, please be in touch with the Church Office. If he/she does not have a set fee, we suggest a similar honorarium for the accompanist as listed on our fee schedule. Arrangements may be made with pianist to also perform as a soloist (extra fee for this service to be arranged with the accompanist).

MUSIC:

Music for a Wedding Service should be an expression of faith and not merely entertainment. Music for your Wedding Service must be approved by the minister & accompanist well in advance of your wedding. He or she may have some suggestions as to suitable music from which you could choose. Your favorite secular music could be used at the banquet, etc.

If you are using recorded music or MP3s there is a sound system in the church.

CONFETTI etc.

All guests are asked to refrain from using confetti, or any such item anywhere on the church premises - please pass this along to guests.

OTHER OPTIONS:

There are some couples for whom a Church Wedding may not be meaningful. You may wish to consider a Civil Ceremony. A Civil Ceremony is performed by a Marriage Commissioner. This is a brief legal ceremony probably performed at a Court House, or elsewhere, and is recommended for couples who have no interest in The Christian Faith or in church. There are a number of Marriage Commissioners listed in the yellow pages.

Marriage Policy of The United Church of Meadowood

The Wedding Service is a service of worship and, as such will be under the direction of the minister of The United Church in Meadowood, Worship Committee and/or Council.

Purpose

To establish criteria for wedding ceremonies held at The United Church in Meadowood that is sensitive and inclusive of all worshipers.

Policy

The United Church in Meadowood recognizes the fact that marriage is a gift of God through which all couples, in freedom and dignity, make a covenant with one another in the presence of their community, and with God. Marriage offers the promise of lifelong companionship, rich expressions of human affection, and the nurture of children.

The United Church in Meadowood believes that the marital bond is sacred and is greater than the two individuals. It creates holy ground on which persons are called to walk respectfully, as equals. Marriage is a committed relationship that takes precedence over all other relationships. Marriage is also a volitional act, freely entered into by two consenting adults.

The United Church in Meadowood believes God calls us to celebrate inclusion and belonging, and it wishes to accompany and support all persons (regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity) who share these beliefs, invite us into their lives, and choose our community as their own. Therefore, the Church welcomes all couples of consenting age, and who are legally entitled to be married and who wish to celebrate their marriage vows at The United Church in Meadowood.

The following criteria were developed regarding marriages in The United Church in Meadowood.

1. One or both persons to be married will either be:
 - a) member(s), adherent(s), or persons (regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity) affiliated with The United Church in Meadowood;
 - b) children or grandchildren of persons who are members or adherents of The United Church in Meadowood;
 - c) from the area which is served by The United Church in Meadowood; are planning to live in the area after their marriage; as long as there is a commitment to a church life.
2. The incumbent minister(s) will preside over the wedding service at The United Church in Meadowood. Any exceptions to this clause must be approved by the Worship Committee.

3. The ceremony will take place in the Sanctuary. Any exceptions must be approved by the Worship Committee.
4. A reception is permitted to be held in the Fellowship Hall of the church following the ceremony (depending on availability).
5. Couples requesting marriage will be required to attend Marriage Preparation classes prior to getting married.
6. Photographs may be taken in the Sanctuary prior to the ceremony, during the processional, and during the signing of the register. However, pictures are prohibited during the ceremony. Following the ceremony the minister will be happy to pose for pictures with the Wedding Party.
7. Sound and video recordings are permitted, with the understanding that the equipment is set up in advance of the ceremony and that it be as inconspicuous as possible.
8. Items such as confetti, real rose petals, etc., will not be allowed within the church building, or on church grounds. **Any decorations or flowers must be removed immediately following the service.**
9. Couples are to consult the accompanist before purchasing music. It is inherent that:
 - a) all music be purchased by the wedding couple;
 - b) couples are to use original copies of music only (photocopies of music is prohibited);
 - c) it is preferable that music be sacred or classical in a nature, except during the signing of the register;
 - d) the minister and accompanist have final approval of the choice of music;
 - e) music must be approved six (6) weeks in advance of the ceremony.
10. The United Church in Meadowood has an existing celebration of marriage ceremony. Any changes to this ceremony, including the vows, must be done in consultation with the minister(s) a minimum of six (6) weeks prior to the ceremony.
11. All necessary documents and fees must be left with the minister or church administrator at least six (6) weeks prior to the ceremony. This is to ensure that all the necessary clerical work be completed.

Adopted by Council February 8, 1989

Amended by Council May 14, 1997

Revised and Adopted by Council October 11, 2006

Reviewed by Council: January 2008

Reviewed, amended & approved by Council Dec. 14, 2011 – Motion # 60/2011

Wedding Fees

The United Church in Meadowood

Sanctuary fee (includes use of MacAskill Room)	\$150.00 + \$7.50 GST =	\$157.50
Deposit: Must be paid at time of booking church	\$50.00 + 2.50 GST	\$52.50
Minister Honorarium		\$150.00
Accompanist Honorarium (Accompanist has right of first refusal)		\$125.00
Event Assistant Honorarium, mandatory (includes rehearsal and wedding day)		\$ 75.00
Tech Assistant Honorarium (includes rehearsal if required, if not at rehearsal \$50.00)		\$ 75.00

Please make cheques payable to:

The United Church in Meadowood	- Deposit	\$52.50
The United Church in Meadowood	Balance Sanctuary Fee $\$157.50 - 52.50 =$	\$105.00
The United Church in Meadowood (Bulletins preprinted picture (in stock in office) \$15/100) or (Bulletins – designed and sent out for printing, Pay directly to company (Ex. Galaxy))		
Minister's Honorarium		\$150.00
Accompanist's Honorarium (Confirm Name with office)		\$125.00
Event Assistant (Confirm Name with office)		\$ 75.00
Tech Assistant (if required) (Confirm Name with office)		\$ 75.00

Revised July 2013

Reviewed by Council: January 2008

Revised and approved by Council: November 2008

Reviewed & amended by Council Jan. 11/12 – Motion # 63/2012

The United Church in Meadowood
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Planning your Wedding Service

The United Church in Meadowood

Wedding Service

This material has been prepared to help you in planning your **Wedding Service**. A number of options have been included within each area of the service. The service should reflect the values you hold regarding intimate relationships and the place of marriage within the Christian community. The hope is that you will work together to determine which of the following resources reflect those values for you.

An outline of a typical order of service would be as follows:

1. Processional
2. Greeting and Call to Worship
3. Introduction
4. Prayer of Approach and Confession
5. Hymn or Solo
6. Question of Impediment
7. Scripture Readings
8. Meditation
9. Questions of Intention
10. Affirmations of the Families
11. Affirmations of the Congregation
12. Prayer for Grace
13. Exchange of Vows
14. Exchange of Rings
15. Declaration of Marriage
16. Kiss
17. Prayers of the People
18. Blessing
19. Signing of the Registry
20. Commissioning
21. Recessional

1. Processional:

The music for the processional should be suitable for use in any service of worship in the church. Hymn tunes such as “Hyfrydol”, “Hymn to Joy”, “Praise my Soul”, “Lobe den herren”, or “Nun danket” are possibilities. (These tunes are found in the red hymn book.)

There are various ways of proceeding into the church. The form you choose should reflect what you believe about your relationship. The following are recommend forms:

- a) The minister meets the couple at the entrance, invites the congregation to stand and then leads the couple down the aisle to the Table with the attendants following behind the couple.
- b) The minister proceeds down the aisle and invites the congregation to stand. Then one party and attendants proceed down the south aisle, while the other party and attendants proceed down the north aisle. Parents may be asked to proceed with the wedding party. The couple meet at the front and take their place at the Table.
- c) The couple may arrive at the church in time to receive and welcome guests as they arrive. When guests are seated, the minister meets the couple at the back and proceeds with them to the Table at the front. (Before the service, the minister will invite the congregation to refrain from taking picture until the worship has ended.)
- d) Traditional: One spouse and attendants wait at front with the minister while the other party makes their entrance, one at a time.

2. Greeting and Call to Worship:

I greet you with the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the community of the Holy Spirit. May God be with you.

a) It is good to give thanks to God; to sing praises to the name of the Most High: to declare God’s steadfast love in the morning, and the faithfulness of God by night. (*from Psalm 92*)

b) O come, let us sing to the source of our hope. Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving. Let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise. (*from Psalm 95*)

c) We will sing of loyalty and justice. To you, O God, we will sing. We will walk with integrity of heart and give heed to the way that is blameless. (*from Psalm 101*)

d) God is love, and whoever lives in love lives in God and God lives in them. (*from I John 4*)

3. Introduction:

a) We, as a community of family and friends, are gathered here, around this Table, in God's presence, to witness the marriage of _____ and _____, and to ask God to bless them. By our presence here, we all accept responsibility for helping _____ and _____ and for encouraging them in their marriage. We are called to rejoice with them in their happiness, to help them when they have trouble, and to remember them in our prayers.

b) Friends, we are gathered here today to witness and celebrate the coming together of two separate lives. We have come to join _____ and _____ in marriage, to be with them and rejoice with them in the making of this important commitment. Marriage is an estate rooted in human history, yet forever new with each person who pledge themselves freely to one another. It is a union created by a loving purpose and kept by abiding will. In this event, we are gathered here to acknowledge the marriage that dwells within them.

c) Whenever we gather for worship, we gather around a Table. Today we gather to celebrate _____ and _____'s relationship. We come offering our support to them as they commit themselves to living in marriage. The Table has been prepared with _____ and _____ with _____ and _____, and _____ to provide a marriage feast of word and commitment, hope and honour, love and joy.

4. Prayer of Approach and Confession:

a) O God, you are the Creator of all things. You made us, and you sustain us. We depend on you. For the gift of life, we praise you. For Jesus, who reveals its meaning and purpose, we thank you.

In the world without, and in our lives within, we confess there is much that is confusing and complex. Many voices counsel us; many forces pressure us; many things tempt us.

We need your light to lead us, your hand to hold us, and your love to complete us. In Jesus' name, we ask for your blessing. Amen.

b) O God our helper, source of infinite love, bless us with a sense of your indwelling presence. Keep us sensitive to the wonder of things that fill our days and give meaning to life. Deepen our loving, both for those near to us, and those who, as strangers, need our concern.

In a world of change, we confess we are often bewildered. As our assumptions are questioned, and accustomed ways disappear, we cling to the familiar. But you are God of the unknown as of the known, of the future as of the past. Overcome our doubt with faith, and our fear with love, and send us forward with renewed hope. Amen.

c) Almighty God of us all, who has given to us each our separate life, we believe that two lives can be lived together in responsible love. We rejoice in your love in the midst of our lives.

As we meet together in this place where so many covenants have been made, where so many griefs have been acknowledged, and where so many beginnings and endings have been celebrated, we confess our sins of thought, word and deed. We confess the arrogance of human promises made to last forever. And we pray that your forgiveness may take flesh in our ability to forgive; that your love may take flesh in our ability to love; that your justice may take flesh in the things we say and do. May your grace abound in _____ and _____ that they and we may continue to grow in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

d) O God of love, we come to you, surrounded by people of love, care and compassion. We are grateful for the gift of life and the special gift of _____ and _____ finding each other. We are thankful to you for your role in bringing them together and for nurturing them to become wonderful partners, companions and friends. We thank you for all the joy, laughter and love that has brought us to this day. In Jesus name, Amen.

5. Hymn or Solo:

6. Question of Impediment:

_____ and _____, you have made known your desire to be married, and no one has shown a valid reason why you may not be united in Christian marriage. If either of you know a reason why you may not be married, I charge you before God, the searcher of all hearts, to declare it now. For your marriage must be based upon mutual honesty, trust, and love.

7. Scripture Readings:

Central to any service of Christian worship is the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ. The couple should consult with the minister in selecting appropriate scripture readings. Some suggestions include:

Psalms 33, 67, 100, 127	Ephesians 3:14-21	1 John 4: 7, selected verses
Jeremiah 31:31-34	John 2:1-11; 15:9-16	
Romans 12:9-18	Matthew 7:24-27; 22:35-40	
Revelation 22:1-5	1 Corinthians 13:1-8a, 13	
Genesis 2:15, 18-24	Ruth 1:1-9, 14-17	
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12a	Song of Solomon 2:8-13	

8. Meditation:

The meditation should be addressed both to the individuals who are being married and to the gathered community. It should offer the hope of the Good News of the Gospel, while presenting a faithful recognition of the realities of the joys and despairs that occur in any relationship.

9. Questions of Intention:

a) The decision to marry, made in the context of human uncertainty, requires tremendous faith; faith in yourselves as individuals and in the strength of your relationship; faith that you will be able, with God's help, to deal with whatever the future holds.

_____ will you take _____ to be your husband (partner/spouse)? **(I WILL.)**

_____ will you take _____ to be your wife (partner, spouse)? **(I WILL.)**

b) _____ will you love and respect _____ sharing your life with him/her, making a life-long commitment to him/her, with the knowledge that such a commitment must be renewed each day? **(I WILL.)**

c) _____ will you have this woman to be your wife, to live together in marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and keep her in sickness and in health, and be faithful to her as long as you both shall live? **(I WILL.)**

_____, will you have this man to be your husband, to live together in marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and keep him in sickness and in health, and be faithful to him as long as you both shall live? **(I WILL.)**

d) _____ and _____, having heard these words of instruction and admonition concerning love and marriage, do you now consent to be faithful to the obligations of this sacred relationship as long as you both shall live?

10. Affirmations of the Families:

(The parents are invited to stand.)

a) Do you, the parents of _____ and _____ grant them your blessing and offer them your honesty, your love and your prayers? **(We Do.)**

b) The marriage of _____ and _____ unites friends and families in a new relationship to each other. It creates a new community. _____ and _____ ask for your blessing on their marriage at this time in their lives. Will you, their parents, do everything in your power to support them and to care for them in their marriage? If so, please answer, **“Yes, We Will!”**

and/or

11. Affirmations of the Congregation:

(Congregation is invited to stand.)

a) Will you, as parents, family and friends, continue to offer your love, your support and your prayers to _____ and _____ in their relationship with each other? **(WE WILL!)**

b) Will you, as parents, family and friends, do everything in your power to support _____ and _____ in their marriage? **(WE WILL!)**

12. Prayer for Grace:

a) Gracious God, bless these two people that they may give their vows to each other in the strength and spirit of your steadfast love. Let the promise of your word root and grow in their lives. Grant them vision and hope to persevere in trust and friendship all their days. Keep ever before them the needs of the world. By your grace enable them to be true disciples of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

b) O God, we pray for _____ and _____ as they make their marriage vows. Help them never to hurt or grieve one another intentionally and to make amends when it does happen. Help them to share their work, their dreams, their successes, their failures, their sorrows, and their joys. Keep them always true to one another, and grant that the years ahead may draw them ever closer to one another. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

c) Let us pray for these two people as they make their marriage vows:

As _____ and _____ pledge themselves to each other, help them and bless them, that their love may be strong and their commitment may be true.

d) O loving God, as _____ and _____ promise themselves to each other, help them, bless them, that their vows may be genuine, their commitment may be deep and their love may be everlasting. Amen.

(Congregation is invited to be seated.)

13. Exchange of Vows:

- a) _____, I take you to be my* wife/husband/[to be joined in wedlock], to laugh with you in joy, to grieve with you in sorrow, to grow with you in love, and to be faithful with you in marriage, as long as we both shall live.
- b) _____ I take you, to be my *wife/husband,/[to be joined in wedlock], in times of joy and in times of trial, in times of happiness and in times of sorrow, from this day forward as long as we share life together.
- c) In the name of God, I _____ take you _____ to be my* wife/husband/[to be joined in wedlock], from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.
- d) _____, I commit myself, to join my life with yours, and I promise to grow in my knowledge of you and to allow you to grow in your knowledge of me, to honour you and cherish you, to trust you and to be worthy of your trust.

_____ I promise to have faith in our relationship, to be forgiving and to seek forgiveness, to share both my joy and my despair, to encourage and to support your growth in mind and in spirit. These things I promise as long as we both shall live.

***Wording options friend, partner, companion, spouse**

14. Exchange of Gifts/Symbols of Marriage:

The gift or exchange of tangible symbols, such as rings, is customary but optional in the marriage service. The marriage is not affected by the giving and receiving of these symbols. Rings or other tangible symbols are tokens and pledges of the covenant the couple has already made in their exchange of the wedding vows.

- a) _____ I give you this _____ as a sign of my love and loyalty.
- b) _____ I give you this ring that you may wear it as a symbol of the vows we have made this day.
- c) _____ I give you this ring/symbol that you may wear it as a symbol/token of our marriage.

15. Declaration of Marriage: See other options on page17.

- a) Forasmuch as _____ and _____ have made this solemn covenant of marriage before God and all of us here, I declare them to be husband and wife*.
- b) _____ and _____ having chosen each other in love and in freedom, having declared their promises before this gathering, and having made their pledges to one another, are now husband and wife.
- c) Forasmuch as _____ and _____ have made these commitments to each other and have exchanged gifts as symbols of these vows, we bear witness to the ceremony that has made them husband and wife*

15. Declaration of Marriage: Other options:

a) Because _____ and _____ have desired each other in marriage, and have witnessed this before God and our gathering, affirming their acceptance of the responsibilities of such a union, and have pledged their love and faith to each other, sealing their vows in the giving and receiving of rings, I do proclaim that they are married in the sight of God and community. Let all people here and everywhere recognize and respect this holy union, now and forever.

b) _____ and _____, you are now truly wed according to the witness of this church and the law of the Province of Manitoba. Become one. Fulfill your promises. Love and serve God. Whom God has joined together, let no one separate.

c) _____ and _____, you have made a solemn covenant of marriage before God, and before all of us here. I now declare you to be wed; in the name of God the Creator, Word, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

d) _____ and _____, we have heard your vows and your promise of faithful love. I now declare you to be married; in the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

16. Kiss

17. Prayers of the People:

a) O God, creator and liberator of us all, we give you thanks for all the goodness of human life; for your gifts of joy and laughter, of dance and song; for your gifts of human closeness and friendship. Especially this day, we thank you for the joy of _____ and _____ as they begin their married life together. Grant them wisdom and courage to continue growing in their love for each other, for this community and for the world. As we rejoice, O God, we remember those who struggle to survive. In hope, we look to the day in which all your people shall rejoice together. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

b) Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to show us the way to a loving and just life. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon _____ and _____. Defend them from all that would threaten them. Lead them into all peace. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that Table where your saints feast forever; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

c) O Holy One, breathe over this couple your sustaining bond of love. Give _____ and _____ the courage and compassion, the liberty and security, the trust and wonder, we human beings need for our life in relationship. May _____ and _____ always be companions and mates, friends and allies. May we always be in the circle of their community. Bless their journey together. Today, we celebrate the lives they have intertwined. May their relationship be sealed here today in their proclamation of the life-sustaining commitment they have made to one another. May they taste the mystery of creation in each other. Bless _____ and _____, O gracious God, and bless us all. Amen.

d) This is a remarkable day, O God, a day of joy and excitement, of love and laughter and delight. We thank you for all the ways you have made this blessed occasion. Especially, we thank you for _____ and _____ whose love for each other has spread to encompass all of us with peace and hopefulness. We are so grateful for the many ways their parents have encouraged and supported them on their journey. For all the goodness of life—from the simplest to the most complex—we remain grateful awe. You make each day of our lives an adventure to be embraced with enthusiasm and wonder. Now let us find the unity of our voices, our hope, and our faith as we say the words Jesus taught us.

18. Blessing:

- a) May the grace of Jesus Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, and the Holy Spirit keep you. Amen.
- b) May the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of the living God and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you. Amen.
- c) May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, the blessing of the Son, born of Mary, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit, who broods over us as a mother over her children, be with you. Amen.
- d) Go from here with pride and confidence in your love. Believe in yourselves; go out to follow your dreams; be everything that you can be; find peace and give peace. This is God's gift to you and God's call.

19. Signing of the Registry:

The signing of the registry at this point in the worship is optional. You may choose to sign the documents prior to the service or after the congregation has departed. If you choose to sign the registry at this time, music may be played or a solo sung. Again, the music should be appropriate to a service of worship. Usually the marriage registry is placed on the table in front of the couple.

20. Commissioning:

- a) _____ and _____ go forth from here, carrying with you the peace of Christ, and love of God and the encouragement and support of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- b) _____ and _____ go forth bound together by the love of God. Go with hope and joy, and a heart full of dreams, knowing that God is with you always. Amen.
- c) God the eternal keep you loving each other, so that the peace of Christ may abide in your home. Go forth to serve God and your neighbour in all that you do. Bear witness to the love of God in this world, so that those to whom love is a stranger will find in you generous friends.

21. Recessional:

The couple recesses down the center aisle, followed by the attendants and families.

The United Church in Meadowood
Marriage Information

NAME	SPOUSE		SPOUSE			
	Surname of SPOUSE		Surname of SPOUSE			
	All Given Names		All Given Names			
MARITAL STATAUS	Never Married <input type="checkbox"/>	Widowed <input type="checkbox"/>	Divorced <input type="checkbox"/>	Never Married <input type="checkbox"/>	Widowed <input type="checkbox"/>	Divorced <input type="checkbox"/>
RELIGION	Religious Denomination			Religious Denomination		
DATE OF BIRTH	Month/Day /Year Age		Month/Day /Year Age			
PLACE OF BIRTH	City, Town, Province or Country			City, Town, Province or Country		
RESIDENCE Before Marriage	Address (if rural, give exact location)			Address (if rural, give exact location)		
	City, Town, Province or Country			City, Town, Province or Country		
	Postal Code			Postal Code		
FATHER	Surname and Given Names			Surname and Given Names		
	Birthplace			Birthplace		
MOTHER	Surname and Given Names			Surname and Given Names		
	Birthplace			Birthplace		
WITNESSES	Name and Address of Witness			Name and Address of Witness		
RESIDENCE AFTER MARRIAGE	Mailing Address after Marriage			Telephone Numbers		
	City, Town, Province or Country			Home: _____		
	Postal Code			Work: _____		
Cell: _____						
PLACE OF WEDDING						
WEDDING DATE, TIME:			REHEARSAL DATE, TIME:			
OTHER						

Check list - Couple

- _____ Establish a date for wedding
- _____ Receive “Wedding package” from the church office & read and review check list
- _____ Confirm date with minister for availability
- _____ Review fees (located in wedding package)
- _____ Arrange Accompanist
- _____ **Pay deposit fee to reserve the date and time**
- _____ * This is a non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 plus GST, payable towards the total fee for the wedding.
- _____ Make arrangements for recording of CD’s of wedding service, if required
- _____ Advise Office Administrator of the number of guests, in order to ensure adequate seating
- _____ Submit all necessary documents and fees to Office Administrator at least two weeks prior to the ceremony
- _____ Purchase wedding license and deliver to the minister at least two weeks prior to the wedding
- _____ Attend Marriage Preparation seminar
- _____ Review Wedding service with minister (any changes to service refer to #10 of Marriage Policy)
- _____ Review music with Accompanist & Minister
- _____ Purchase music if necessary
- _____ Determine if bulletins are required; if yes, **order pre-printed wedding bulletins one month prior to date of service** AND provide a draft to the church office two weeks prior to the wedding service
- _____ Arrange a date and time for rehearsal
- _____ Arrange for decorating, if required
- _____ Arrange for floral delivery, if required, with the Events Assistant
- _____ View pre-processional rooms and location
- _____ **Assign ushers** and ensure the ushers know arrival time and duties for wedding day
- _____ Attend the rehearsal
- _____ Attend the wedding ceremony

Check list – Ushers

- _____ Arrive at the church at least 30 – 45 minutes prior to the service
- _____ Arrange with the wedding couple as to how they want the guests to be ushered

Contact the Events Assistant for information on the following:

- Location of the washrooms
- Location of the coat racks
- Location of the bulletins
- Location of the “Waiting Rooms” for the wedding party
- Location of the infra-red hearing headsets
- If there is a guest book who will be attending that area, if required
- Pens for the guest book