



# Planning your Wedding Service at The United Church in Meadowood

This material has been prepared to help you in planning your **Wedding Service**. The service should reflect the values you hold regarding intimate relationships and the place of marriage within the Christian community. The outline is a guide only and can be amended as needed. When you meet with the Minister you can discuss your preferences and options for the service.

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

- |                                 |                                             |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. Processional                 | 10. Prayer for Grace                        |
| 2. Greeting and Call to Worship | 11. Exchange of Vows                        |
| 3. Introduction and Prayer      | 12. Exchange of Symbols                     |
| 4. Question of Impediment       | 13. Declaration of Marriage                 |
| 5. Hymn or Solo                 | 14. Kiss                                    |
| 6. Scripture/Readings           | 15. Prayers of Thanksgiving and Remembrance |
| 7. Meditation                   | 16. Signing of the Registry                 |
| 8. Questions of Intention       | 17. Sending Forth                           |
| 9. Affirmations                 | 18. Recessional                             |

## **1. Processional**

The music for the processional should be suitable for use in any service of worship in the church.

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

- a) The Minister meets the couple at the entrance, invites the congregation to stand and then leads the couple down the aisle 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.

- 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 front.
- 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**

**3. Introduction and Prayer**

**4. 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.

**5. Hymn or Solo** (if desired, additional hymns or music can be interspersed in the service)

**6. Scripture/Reading(s)**

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

1 Corinthians 13:1-8a, 13	Ecclesiastes 4:9-12a	Ephesians 3:14-21
Jeremiah 31:31-34	John 2:1-11; 15:9-16	1 John 4: 7, selected verses
Matthew 7:24-27; 22:35-40	Psalm 67	Psalm 100
Revelation 22:1-5	Romans 12:9-18	Ruth 1:1-9, 14-17
Matthew 19:4-6	Genesis 1:26-28	Mark 10:6-9

Readings from other traditions or sources may be included in the service and should be discussed with the Minister.

**7. Meditation**

**8. Questions of Intention**

\_\_\_\_\_, do you come to this ceremony of your own free will, with no impediment to your participation, desiring to enter into this covenant to create with \_\_\_\_\_ a loving home for each other [if already children include them here] and children yet to be born? If so, please answer, I do.

Are you prepared to make a vow to \_\_\_\_\_, and before this community and God, that you will strive to keep this union sacred and unique among your relationships, for the rest of your life? If so, please answer, I do.

**9. Affirmations**

To family: Do you give your love and blessing to this marriage, and commit to including \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in your family as one of yours? If so, please answer, I do.

To congregation: Do you give your love and blessing to this marriage, and commit to including \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in your embrace of friendship? If so, please answer, I do.

To all: As witnesses of the covenant which will be made here today, do you accept the responsibility for supporting \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ throughout their lives together?

- a) If so, please answer, I do.
- b) If so, I would invite you to say the words printed in the leaflet/screen.

\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_, we will  
Rejoice in your happiness,  
Encourage you to be patient and forgiving,  
Challenge you to be faithful,  
Stand with you in times of stress and sorrow,  
And hold you in our hearts and prayers.

**10. Prayer for Grace**

God, you created humankind to desire the company of one another in long term relationships. As \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ pledge themselves to one another, let your love be in them and what they do here today. Amen

**11. Exchange of Vows:**

These are some suggested vows. Other options can be discussed with the Minister.

- a) In the presence of God, and before these witnesses, I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my \*wife/husband/[to be joined in marriage] to have and to hold 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; and to be faithful to you alone, as long as we both shall live.
- b) \_\_\_\_\_, I take you to be my \*wife/husband/[to be joined in marriage], 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.
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ I take you, to be my \*wife/husband/[to be joined in marriage], 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.
- d) In the name of God, I \_\_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_\_ to be my \*wife/husband/[to be joined in marriage], 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.
- e) \_\_\_\_\_, 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.
- f) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 ...

**12. Exchange 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.

**13. Declaration of Marriage:**

Because \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have declared their desire for 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 the community. Let all people here and everywhere recognize and respect this holy union, now and forever.

**14. Kiss**

**15. Prayers of Thanksgiving and Remembrance**

**16. Signing of the Registry**

The signing of the registry occurs at this point in the worship service, music may be played or a solo sung.

**17. Sending forth with Blessing**

**18. Recessional**

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

\*Wording options: friend, partner, companion, spouse ...

Please note animals are not permitted except for service animals.

## Before the Wedding Day

### Fees

Church Use	\$175.00 + \$8.75 GST \$183.75 (\$50 due as a deposit, \$133.75 before the wedding)	Required
Minister	\$200	Required
Wedding Site Coordinator	\$100	Required
Audio Tech	\$75.00 If AV Tech is req'd for rehearsal \$25.00 additional fee	Required
Accompanist	\$150.00	Required (unless there is no live music)
Bulletins	\$40/100 + GST	Optional

Some of the fees above may be waived if the wedding is very small.

We ask that you bring the cheques required, your license and your completed family information 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, and, we require you to bring it to the church office **at least two weeks** in advance of the 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 License application from Vital Statistics, information on name change, and information on obtaining final marriage documents. Information needed for the Vital Statistics Forms include both parties' birth places and dates, your parents' full names (including mother's birth (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 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 (Leaflets)

Options:

- Do not have any bulletins
- 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. If the bulletin is not acceptable UCiM is not responsible for the cost of reprinting.*
- Wedding Bulletins (full colour) prepared by/printed by the church office. All information to be included must be given to the church office **at least two weeks prior**.

## Decorations in the Sanctuary

Certain times during the church year the Sanctuary may be decorated to enhance that season. These religious symbols and decorations must be left in place. The Communion Table and other furnishings may be relocated to fit the service design. Pew Markers, candelabras (dripleless candles only, plastic should be under any candles sitting on the carpet); baskets of flowers, etc. are most welcome but the church does not supply them. Items used to decorate the sanctuary, including silk petals, tulle, pew bows, etc. **must be removed** at the conclusion of the service.

Decorating may be done the evening before the service or the day of the wedding. Plans should be confirmed with the Minister or church office. Flowers can be delivered to the church in advance if you notify the church office of their anticipated arrival.

## Interviews and Rehearsal

There will be two meetings with the Minister before your wedding; an initial phone meeting and one in-person meeting where you will be discussing your vision for your wedding, planning and confirming the service. Both members of the couple must be present for this meeting. There is usually a rehearsal, generally the evening before the wedding. All the participants in the wedding should attend.

## Music

Live or recorded music may be used and is recommended while the guests are arriving, for the processional, signing of the register and recessional. Music must be approved in advance. Our accompanist may have some suggestions of suitable music from which you could choose.

## Pianist

The United Church in Meadowood's accompanist plays for all weddings. If they are unavailable, they will find an alternative. Other musicians may be involved in the service, in addition to the pianist, or as an alternative.

## **Singing**

The singing of hymns can be an important part of worship if the guests at the wedding are familiar with the hymn and comfortable singing. A soloist may be another option. Our accompanist can help you to find a soloist if desired. Generally, soloists have a fee for performing. If there is congregational singing, the words of hymns can be in the bulletin, projected on screens (UCiM produces the slides).

## **Audio Tech and Recording**

Our Audio Technician sets up the microphones and manages the sound during the service, including playing recorded music or a slideshow. They are available to make recommendations on positioning a tripod for video recording. UCiM does not provide video recording of the service. If the complexity of the service warrants, the Audio Tech will attend the rehearsal.

## **Attendants**

Involving friends and family in the service is a positive way to celebrate the importance of those relationships and acknowledge that a wedding is a communal event. They may stand as witnesses, be in the procession or read parts of the service. We encourage you to be sensitive to how individuals may respond to the stress of the responsibilities prior to asking them to be involved, particularly small children. Animals will not be permitted to be inside the building (unless service animals).

Manitoba law requires at least two witnesses to sign the documentation.

Historically, weddings were a contractual arrangement in which a woman was “given” to a man. That is no longer the case and is not part of a wedding at UCiM. The couple may be accompanied by one or more parents as a sign of support from the family but there will be no questions about “who gives”.

## **For the Wedding Day**

It is very important that your wedding begin on time. Please inform all the participants of this expectation. If the wedding is delayed significantly it could result in cancellation.

The Wedding Party should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the planned start of the wedding.

**The UCiM Wedding Site Coordinator** will be present at the rehearsal and will be available on wedding day to assist you and will assist with last minute set up. They will brief the greeters/ushers as needed. They will have information on things like: Washrooms, Coat racks, Bulletins, Location of the “Waiting Rooms” for the wedding party, infra-red hearing headsets and so on.

## **Guest book attendants and ushers**

UCiM does not provide ushers or greeters. We recommend that there be at least one greeter and one usher and if it is a large wedding you may require more. They should be at the church at least 30 to 45

minutes before the wedding time. They should be aware of how guests are to be seated and consult with the Wedding Site Coordinator to be familiar with the building.

### **Pictures**

We strongly recommend that people refrain from taking pictures during the Service of Worship. Video and available light photos are permitted providing that photo-taking is done from a still position and the camera is not making any noise. Video recording may be done from a fixed position only.

The Sanctuary may be used for pictures following the service. Be sure to inform the Minister if you want them to participate in post wedding photos.

### **CONFETTI etc.**

All guests are expected to refrain from using confetti, or any such item anywhere on the church premises, which includes the entrance and parking lot - please pass this along to guests. It is very difficult to clean up.

### **The United Church in Meadowood**

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Winnipeg, Manitoba

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Minister: [minister@ucim.org](mailto:minister@ucim.org)

Updated July 2022

Print and complete and Return to Church Office at LEAST TWO WEEKS before the wedding

NAME	Person 1	Person 2
	Surname	Surname
	All Given Names	All Given Names
MARITAL STATUS	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	Denomination/Faith Tradition	Denomination/Faith Tradition
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	Full Name and Current Address of Witness	Full Name and Current Address of Witness
RESIDENCE AFTER MARRIAGE	Mailing Address after Marriage	Home: _____
	City, Town, Province	Work: _____
	Postal Code	Cell: _____
		Email: _____

Anticipated number of guests: \_\_\_\_\_