

Marriage at



CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL
FREDERICTON NB



Updated: 01 October 2023

Some information to help couples with wedding planning

A. FIRST THINGS FIRST

In this document, "officiant" refers to the priest performing the sacrament of marriage. The officiant is usually the Dean unless other circumstances or requests dictate otherwise.

The very first thing needed before a prospective wedding at the Cathedral, including booking the date, is for both members of the couple to speak with the Dean in person. A conversation about marriage should begin with a personal contact rather than by phone, e-mail or letter. This is a first step of inquiry.

The Office Administrator, or anyone else at the Cathedral Office, cannot book the Cathedral for use for a wedding. The booking of weddings must be done with the Dean by the couple; a parent cannot book the Cathedral for a wedding.

The best way to connect with the Dean is to speak with him after worship at the Cathedral. After a brief conversation, he will ask you to contact him to arrange an appointment for an initial meeting. Only after that interview will the Cathedral be "booked" for your wedding.

The only exceptions to the above are if the prospective bride and groom live out of town or there are circumstances making being present for worship impossible. In that case a phone call by either the bride or the groom to the Dean is in order as the first step.

A couple may ask a parent to make an initial inquiry about a marriage at the Cathedral. Nothing is considered booked, confirmed or scheduled as a result of such an inquiry. The process, and the "booking" of a wedding happens only after personal contact between the couple and the Dean has begun.

B. BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Either the bride or the groom must be practicing Christian faith in the Anglican Church, and at least one of the couple needs to have been baptized before a wedding can be held in an Anglican Church. Requests for marriage in the Anglican Church can be made no less than sixty (60) days before the prospective date. (Canon XXI) The usual expectation of a couple preparing for Christian marriage is that they be regular participant worshippers in a Christian Church. Vows of Christian marriage are presumed to be made in the context of a living and practiced Christian faith.

The Anglican Church of Canada affirms, according to our Lord's teaching as found in Holy Scripture and expressed in the Form of Solemnization of Matrimony in the Book of Common Prayer, that marriage is a lifelong union in faithful love, and that marriage vows are a commitment to this union, for better or for worse, to the exclusion of all others on either side. This union is established by God's grace when two duly qualified persons enter into a covenant of marriage in which they declare their intention of fulfilling its purposes and exchange vows to be faithful to one another until they are separated by death. The purposes of marriage are mutual fellowship, support, and comfort, and the procreation (if it may be) and nurture of children, and the creation of a relationship in which sexuality may serve personal fulfilment in a community of faithful love. This covenant is made in the sight of God and in the presence of witnesses and of an authorized minister. (Canon XXI)

Declaration

We, _____ and _____, hereby declare that we intend to enter into marriage which we acknowledge to be a union in faithful love, to the exclusion of all others on either side, for better or for worse, until we are separated by death.

We undertake to prepare ourselves for the exchange of vows at our wedding, recognizing that by this mutual exchange our union in marriage will be established.

We intend to strive thereafter to fulfill the purposes of marriage: the mutual fellowship, support, and comfort of one another, the procreation (if it may be) and the nurture of children, and the creation of a relationship in which sexuality may serve personal fulfillment in a community of faithful love.

Being familiar and comfortable with the Cathedral as a home for worship is strongly encouraged. If this seems to be a requirement impossible to meet, you may wish to find a location for your wedding that better suits your personal values and the particular circumstances at this time in your life.

C. THE WEDDING CEREMONY

All details of the service are arranged with the officiant. This includes the choice of liturgy (form of service) and the reading from Scripture. In the Anglican Church we are restricted to rites authorized for use for public worship. The date and time of a rehearsal should also be set with the officiant.

If there are special requests for the service, and your officiant is not one of the Cathedral clergy, then it will be the officiant who will inquire of the Dean about those requests. (Please note below.)

It is also the officiant's responsibility to see that all details needed for the completion of forms, registers and certificates is conveyed to the Cathedral Office as early as possible.

1. Participation in the service of other members of the clergy

This is possible within certain constraints. The officiant i.e., the one performing the sacrament, must be an Anglican cleric, licensed to minister in the Diocese of Fredericton and holding a valid marriage registration for the Province of New Brunswick. Other clergy, Anglican or otherwise, may assist. The part they perform will be established by the officiant through discussion between them and with the couple. The officiant will communicate those decisions to the other assisting member(s) of the clergy. The officiant will make the final decisions regarding assisting clergy.

2. An Anglican priest who is not among the Cathedral clergy officiating at a wedding

This is possible. When desired, it is the responsibility of the prospective officiant to contact the Dean who only may grant permission for the use of the Cathedral, and set the date. Marriage preparation and details of service planning are the responsibility of the officiant. The officiant will comply with instruction provided below regarding music, fees, required Cathedral personnel and the usual standards as set outlined.

D. MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Christian marriage is understood to be a life-long union of a man and a woman and every opportunity needs to be taken to have that relationship begin on a firm foundation. Marriage preparation is required by Canon XXI on Marriage of the General Synod and is the responsibility of the officiant. Details of a programme will be discussed and there may be opportunities to share some components with other churches in the community. The Dean uses the Prepare Enrich Marriage Inventory as a standard component prior to sessions of preparation. There is a small fee for the administration of the Inventory, the results of which assists to highlight aspects of the relationship that could benefit from some specific focus during preparation. Canon XXI outlines various aspects that are to be included in the programme of preparation.

E. DIVORCED PERSONS

If either or both have been divorced, the officiant requires that information before discussion about marriage begins. The Bishop expects that a pastoral relationship between the officiant and at least one member of the couple has been in existence for some time before a process towards marriage begins. In the Diocese of Fredericton,

the Bishop's Directive 4.4 Marriage of Divorced Persons outlines the process and will be followed.

A request for marriage when one or both have been divorced needs to be made no less than ninety (90) days before the prospective date of a wedding.

F. MUSIC

All matters related to music must be discussed with the Cathedral Director of Music. Please contact him to arrange a meeting. Final decisions about music are made with the Director of Music and are approved by him.

Any request for other people to provide music at your wedding is handled through the Director of Music, including any interest you may have in providing musicians of your own choosing. Permission is required from the Director of Music for other musicians to play before an invitation is extended.

If a musician other than the Director of Music is to be used, the Director of Music receives the usual fee.

The Director of Music does not normally attend the rehearsal.

G. FLOWERS

You are welcome to have whatever flowers you wish at your wedding, however, the Cathedral Flower Conveners will give you the direction you require in this regard.

Please contact the conveners first to discuss all aspects of flowers to be used in the Cathedral for the wedding. All floral arrangements you hope to have at the wedding are to be discussed before any orders are placed or definite plans made about placement etc.

The primary focus at the Cathedral is the worship of God. It is always expected that flowers the first flowers provided are at the High Altar and that they remain after the wedding. These flowers are arranged by the Convener, the cost covered by the flower fee outlined below.

Other flowers used at the wedding belong to the couple and can be used as they choose i.e. it is not expected that they should remain in the Cathedral after the wedding.

H. OTHER MATTERS

1. Not the only wedding that day?

It is possible to have more than one wedding or another use of the Cathedral on any given day. There will be at least a two-hour time separation between the beginning of each and may restrict the timing possible of any particular celebration of marriage. Weddings are booked on a first come, first served basis.

2. Photographs and video

Both are allowed. It is strongly recommended that professionals be used when possible and that they are as unobtrusive as possible.

Still photos may be taken when the bridal party and bride are entering the Cathedral, during the signing of the register, and during the recessional. Only a professional photographer may take other photographs, without flash, and only from the back of the Cathedral, during the liturgy.

A video camera may be operated from one location identified and agreed upon with the officiant at the rehearsal.

The photographer and the videographer need to arrive no later than 30 minutes before the service so that matters pertaining to their involvement can be clarified in advance, if necessary.

It is acceptable and encouraged that a photographer have the wedding party return to the church for photos following. This needs to be established with the officiant before the service, especially if there is an expectation for them to be included. Recreations of specific moments in the ceremony are a definite possibility. Naturally, photographs may be taken on the grounds outside. If there is another service to follow, photos must be finished no later than an hour and a half after the scheduled time of the wedding.

3. Confetti, rice, bubbles, flower petals, etc.

No confetti, rice or otherwise lingering materials will be used inside or outside on Cathedral grounds. Bubbles may be used. Petals in the aisle are acceptable.

4. Invitations to the officiant

Wedding officiants will not assume invitation to any of the events that are part of the wedding celebration. You are not expected to invite the officiant to the reception or to the rehearsal dinner/party. If, for personal reasons or because of family connections, you wish to invite the officiant to the reception, and/or the rehearsal dinner/party, then please do so well in advance. A good guide is for you to speak to him or her at the time you send out written invitations. If the officiant has a spouse

and you wish to extend the invitation to him or her, please speak personally, and separately, to them. This, too, is done well in advance of the wedding.

5. A bulletin or service leaflet for your wedding

A service leaflet or bulletin is not a requirement but the Cathedral is pleased to provide one. If you wish to have one, it should be arranged with the officiant who should provide an order of service in digital. If special wedding leaflet paper is desired it is the responsibility of the couple to obtain them and deliver to the Cathedral Office well ahead of the event.

6. Wedding Planners

Wedding planners, if employed, are welcome as guests at the celebration of marriage at the Cathedral. Wedding planners do not normally attend the rehearsal or give direction of any kind in the wedding liturgy or at the Cathedral itself.

7. Punctuality

The groom and groomsmen are expected no later than one-half hour in advance of the ceremony and in their appointed places. It is not fashionable for the bride or bridal party to be late. It will be assumed that the ceremony will begin exactly on time.

I. FEES AND PAYMENTS REQUIRED

1. The Wedding		
Organist:		\$150.00
Verger		\$100.00
Assisting clergy each (if any):		\$100.00
** Use of the Cathedral		\$1000.00
2. Flowers		
Flowers at the High Altar		\$200.00

Payment

By cheque

1. Wedding fees (section 1) which is the total amount for the Director of Music/Organist, Verger, Assisting clergy (if any) and Use of Cathedral should be made payable to: "*Christ Church Cathedral.*" The fee for the Cathedral organist is payable even if other musicians are engaged. Assisting clergy should receive, at minimum, \$100. There is no set fee for the Dean, an honorarium is at the discretion of the couple.

** If either the bride or the groom, or the parent(s) of either are identifiable givers to the mission and ministry of Christ Church Cathedral, the "Use of the Cathedral" fee of \$1000.00 is waived.

2. Flowers (section 2) - a separate cheque for flowers payable to: "*Christ Church Cathedral Sanctuary Guild*." Any other flowers are purchased by and billed directly to the couple.

Please deliver the marriage license and payments [two cheques] to the Cathedral office at least two weeks prior to the wedding date.

J. FINALLY

All the best with your wedding plans. Once the planning is complete, let the celebration unfold and enjoy your wedding! God bless you.

K. REFERENCES

[The Book of Common Prayer \(1962\)](#) Solemnization of Matrimony p. 563 ff

[The Book of alternative Services \(1985\)](#) Marriage p. 526 ff

[Canon XXI: On Marriage in the Church](#) (Anglican Church of Canada)

L. CONTACT INFORMATION

Christ Church Cathedral Office

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
168 Church Street, Fredericton NB E3B 4C9
(506) 450-8500 [o] (506) 450-8505 [f]
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Cathedral Organist

Mr. Thomas Gonder
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Cathedral Flower Convener Contact

Mrs. Mary Pugh
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Dean of Fredericton

The Very Rev'd Geoffrey Hall
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