



WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS PACKAGE

Words of Welcome

Thank you for inquiring about holding your wedding at Metropolitan United Church (Met)! Entering into the sacred covenant of marriage in our chancel puts you at the centre of more than two hundred years of Toronto church history. At Met, a wedding is a rite of blessing available to all committed, caring couples regardless of gender, religion (or no religion) or church membership.

While weddings in our cathedral building are considered services of worship, our staff are skilled at blending different spiritual traditions to make your wedding personalized and meaningful.

Booking your wedding

Please read this package thoroughly and make note of any questions you have. The next step is to email or call our Office Administrator, Sheela Taylor, at sheelat@metunited.ca or 416-363-0331 ext. 210 with the following information:

1. Your preferred wedding date, plus a back-up date.
2. Three times when you could meet with one of our ministers. Ideally this meeting would happen in-person at the church so you can see the space, but a phone/zoom meeting is also possible.
3. Any questions you have. These questions will be answered in the meeting with our minister.

After the meeting with our minister, to confirm your booking, we must receive the following:

1. The Completed/signed **Wedding Contract**
2. The Non-refundable **\$500** deposit (to be applied towards your full balance)

The completed and signed Wedding Contract, and payment (cheque, credit card (Visa/MasterCard), can be sent by email, in person, or by mail. Once we receive your deposit, you will be sent a confirmation of your wedding booking. Cheques should be made payable to Metropolitan United Church. The balance of the wedding payment and \$1000.00 late-fee/damage deposit fee, are due one month before your ceremony.

Your deposit reserves the time and date of your wedding. The deposit is non-refundable, unless the wedding is cancelled by mutual agreement in a pastoral counselling session. The minister officiating your

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wedding ceremony reserves the right to alter or cancel any arrangements, if deemed necessary, after the first meeting with the wedding couple.

Wedding Fees

Our standard wedding package for the year 2023 is \$2,750.00. The payment includes the three-hour rental of the sanctuary, a minister to conduct the ceremony and rehearsal, an organist, a sound engineer, and administrative and custodial services. We also include two rooms for the bridal party to prepare for the ceremony. Six parking passes are also provided for the wedding day.

In addition, we require a **\$1000.00** late-fee/damage deposit fee provided by credit card (one month before your wedding date) to cover late-fee and/or physical damage. This is to help us ensure that all of our weddings go according to schedule. The full deposit will be returned provided that the rehearsal and wedding begins within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time.

\$250.00 will be charged if the rehearsal is more than 15 minutes late

\$250.00 will be charged if the ceremony is more than 15 minutes late

\$1000.00 for 30 minutes late or longer

The minister reserves the right to cancel or reschedule the ceremony after 1 hour past the scheduled time of the ceremony.

Additional Options

- **Livestreaming and Recording Package:** (\$1,000) Using state of the art, newly installed broadcast quality cameras and sound equipment, Metropolitan offers livestreaming and 4K recording of your ceremony for guests near and far. Our pan and tilt, high zoom cameras include a 360 degree “eye in the sky” camera ideal for capturing the wedding procession, a wide view of the sanctuary from the balcony, and close-ups of the organ and church bells (if you choose to include the carillon). Our professional technician will deliver intimate and moving shots appropriate to your unique ceremony.
 - For an additional fee, we can provide digital files from all cameras used in the ceremony for future packaging. You may contact our Communications Specialist for additional information on this package.
- **Soloists:** \$250 arranged through Minister of Music
- **Carillonneur:** \$250
- **Red Carpet** (for processional aisle): \$185
- Additional **time** can be added to your booking for a fee if you are having a pre-or post-ceremony event or your wedding plans include a longer time than the wedding agreement allows.
- Additional **rooms** for rehearsal dinners, post-wedding refreshments and small wedding receptions of up to 125 people can be booked. We have a fully equipped kitchen downstairs. Ask our Office Administrator for rates and availability.

Ministers

Although we welcome a variety of traditions, one of our ministers must perform the ceremony.

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Music

The music at your wedding forms an integral and beautiful part of the worship service and will be chosen to help make your special day meaningful and memorable. Metropolitan has a rich tradition of music, with two of Canada's most historic instruments available to enrich your service.

Wedding services typically follow this pattern:

- Organ Prelude:* 15-20 minutes prior to the service
- Processional:* As the wedding party walks down the aisle
- Signing:* During the signing of the register
- Recessional:* As the wedding couple walks back down the aisle

The Metropolitan Organ

Canada's largest pipe organ is played by our Minister of Music or Assistant Organist. If you wish to have the piano or other instruments played for your ceremony, you are invited to discuss these options.

The Metropolitan Carillon

Our carillon has 54 bells in the tower. Our carillonneur, when requested, plays before and after the ceremony, since the carillon is heard outside the building. The carillon's thrilling sound is a wonderful beginning and ending to your service at Metropolitan.

The Metropolitan carillon is undergoing a renovation project that has been delayed due to the pandemic. Currently only about half of the carillon is functional. The bells can be heard outdoors as you and your guests arrive and depart, and can still add a festive atmosphere to the ceremony, but it will not be the fuller sound that you may have experienced if you have heard the Metropolitan carillon in the past before we began the renovation project in Fall 2019. Please let us know if you would like to proceed with the carillon booking. If so, the carillonneur will play for 15 minutes before the ceremony and 15 minutes afterwards.

Musical Selections

Our Organists will be happy to suggest and play a variety of processionals, recessionals, and other selections as you may choose. The playing and/or consultation is included in the wedding fees. A meeting for this consultation should be arranged well before the wedding date to avoid confusion and disappointment. Please contact Sheela Taylor 416-363-0331 ext. 210 or sheelat@metunited.ca.

Our Organists will be happy to suggest and play a variety of processionals, recessionals, and other selections so that you may choose. Walking down the aisle to "Here comes the bride" (from Wagner's "Lohengrin") is not the only option! If another musical group or organist plays for the service (all arrangements are subject to approval by the Minister of Music), the consultation is still necessary.

In addition, you may choose hymns to be sung by the congregation, and you may choose to include vocal or instrumental soloists, as this additional music can add so much meaning to your service. Solo music can

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be inserted into the prelude, during the service, and at the signing of the register. Vocal soloists can be arranged through the Director of Music but, occasionally, couples ask a friend or relative to sing. Fees for Metropolitan soloists are payable to the church. Fees for outside soloists are the direct responsibility of the couple.

Music Sources

In keeping with our church policies, **recorded music or accompaniment is *not* permitted**, as doing so would infringe on copyright laws. Also remember that planning for too much music can take away from your own part in the wedding! Remember that a wedding is a service of worship to God first and foremost and should preserve the appropriate level of dignity.

Many sources of information about wedding music exist, but the quality of this information is highly variable and is often used for quite specific circumstances. All music to be played or sung must be appropriate for the sacred covenant you are entering into and must be able to be realized well on the instruments available for the service. Popular songs, movie soundtracks, and large orchestral scores, for example, often have lyrics that detract from worship or sounds that would be disappointing for you to have played with smaller ensembles. The Minister of Music, in consultation with the Minister if necessary, is responsible for approving all musical choices.

In advance of your consultation with our Minister of Music or Assistant Organist, here are some possibilities for you to explore:

Processionals (one selection, or one for bridesmaids and one for bride):

Prince of Denmark's March *by Clarke*
Trumpet Tune *by Henry Purcell*
Rondeau (from Suite No.1, 1st mov't) *by Jean Mouret*
Canon in D *by Pachelbel*
Wedding March *by Wagner*

Signing of the Register (only one piece needed):

Ave Maria *by Bach/Gounod*
Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring *by Bach*
Air (from Suite No.3) *by Bach*
Air (from Water Music) *by Handel*
Comest thou Jesus *by Bach*
Ave Maria *by Schubert*

Recessionals (only one piece needed):

Wedding March *by Mendelssohn*
Rondeau (from Suite No.1, 1st mov't) *by Jean Mouret*
Hornpipe (from Water Music) *by Handel*
Toccata from Symphony V *by Charles Marie Widor*
Rigaudon *by Campra*
Prelude to a 'Te Deum' *by M. A. Charpentier*

Additional Details

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- Wedding Rehearsal:* Wedding rehearsals typically take about thirty minutes and are arranged at an agreed upon time by the minister and couple and scheduled through the Office Administrator.
- Marriage Licenses:* Please deliver your completed marriage license in an unsealed envelope to the church office **at least two weeks** before your ceremony.
- Photography/Videography:* Photographers and videographers are welcome, but must remain stationary during the ceremony and must not be intrusive or distracting to the guests, wedding party or minister.
- Decorations:* All decorations provided by the couple must be free-standing or hung without the use of permanent fasteners, such as nails, tacks, tape, etc. The use of confetti, rice, etc. is not permitted inside or outside. If the sanctuary is decorated for a particular season or worship service, we request that the decorations remain in place, unless specific permission is granted.
- Candles:* Two candelabra (containing seven candles) are lit for all weddings. You are also welcome to light a Unity Candle for the wedding ceremony, if you wish. For insurance reasons, these are the only candles permitted in the sanctuary.
- Flowers:* Fresh flowers, pew ribbons and other decorating set-ups are the responsibility of the couple. Please contact our Office Administrator to discuss your needs for flower delivery and decorating. Please note: due to their highly allergic nature, no lilies are permitted in the church.
- Parking:* Six free parking passes for your wedding day will be provided for the parking lot adjacent to the church. Our main parking lot can accommodate a large number of guests and additional parking is available in the area. Pre-paid parking spaces can be made available. Contact the Office Administrator for further information.
- Timeliness:* It is essential that you and your wedding party be **on time** for the rehearsal and ceremony, as there may be more than one wedding scheduled on the same day. If you think that you will require more time, please be sure to book this in advance.