GENERAL WEDDING INFORMATION | 2027

Words of Welcome

Thank you for inquiring about holding your wedding at Metropolitan United Church (Met, as we are informally known)! 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, inclusive 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 contact Charlene Mercado at charlenem@metunited.ca or 416-363-0331 ext. 210 and provide her 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, you will be asked to complete our Wedding Information Form and send it to us so that we can prepare the Wedding Contract.

In order to confirm the booking of your wedding, we must receive the following:

1. A complete and signed Wedding Contract.

2. A non-refundable deposit of $1000 (which will be applied toward your full balance).

Payment can be made by e-transfer to donations@metunited.ca or by cheque payable to Metropolitan United Church. Once we receive your deposit, you will be sent a confirmation of your wedding booking.

The balance of the wedding payment and a $1000 late fees/damage deposit 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 counseling session. The minister officiating at your wedding ceremony reserves the right to alter or cancel any arrangements, if deemed necessary, after the first meeting with you.

Wedding Fees

Our standard wedding package is $3600. This package includes the three-hour rental of the sanctuary, a minister to conduct the ceremony and the rehearsal, an organist, a sound technician, and administrative and custodial services. We also include two rooms for the wedding party to prepare for the ceremony.

In addition, we require a $1000 late fee/damage deposit fee provided one month before your wedding date. 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 begin within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time. $250 will be charged if the rehearsal is more than 15 minutes late starting. $250 will be charged if the ceremony is more than 15 minutes late starting. $1000 will be charged if the rehearsal or the ceremony begins 30 minutes or longer late. The minister reserves the right to cancel or reschedule the ceremony after one hour past the scheduled time of the ceremony.

Additional Options

Livestreaming and Recording Package: ($1,600): Using state of the art broadcast quality cameras and sound equipment, Metropolitan offers private 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 – see below). Our professional technician will deliver intimate and moving shots appropriate to your unique ceremony. We can also provide digital files from all cameras used in the ceremony for future packaging.

Professional Vocal Musicians: Soloist $250, Vocal Quartet $800, Vocal Octet ($1200). These musicians can be arranged through Met's Minister of Music, Jonathan Oldengarm.

Wayne C. Vance Carillonist: $250.

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. Please ask our staff team for rates and availability.

Ministers

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

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.

The musical elements of wedding services typically follow this pattern:

Organ Prelude: 15 minutes prior to the service
Processional: As the wedding party walks down the aisle (sometimes two different pieces of music if the wedding party is large)
Signing: Vocal or instrumental solo 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 Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar. If you wish to have the piano or other instruments played for your ceremony, you are invited to discuss these options with the Minister of Music.

The Metropolitan Carillon

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

Musical Selections

The playing and/or consultation for your musical selections is included in the wedding fees. A meeting for this consultation with the Minister of Music will happen well before the wedding date to avoid confusion and disappointment.

Our Organists will be happy to suggest and play a variety of processionals, recessionals, and other selections 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 meaning to your service. Solo music can be inserted into the prelude, during the service, and at the signing of the register. Vocal and instrumental soloists are contracted by the Minister of Music but, occasionally, couples ask a friend or relative to sing. Fees for soloists contracted by the Minister of Music 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! We believe that a wedding is a service of worship 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 special circumstances. All appropriate music to be played or sung must be able to be realized well on the instruments available for the service. Sometimes popular songs, movie soundtracks, or 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 officiating at the ceremony if necessary, is responsible for approving all musical choices.

In advance of your consultation with our Minister of Music, the QR code below will show you some music possibilities to explore:



Additional Details

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, the wedding party, or the 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.

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.