



Merivale-Fallowfield Pastoral Charge is pleased that you have chosen to be married here. A wedding is a time to celebrate and enjoy. This is also a time when you enter into a very solemn and holy covenant with each other and with God. Since you have chosen to be married in a church setting and wish a religious service, you will need to give careful thought to how you want this worship service to reflect your faith and commitment. We look forward to helping you plan your Christian marriage so that it may be happy, meaningful and memorable. It is your wedding, and we encourage you to make it uniquely yours.

### **The Service**

I Corinthians 13 says: *“Love is patient and kind, it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope and patience never fail. Love is eternal.*

This is a time for joy and celebration when two people make commitments to each other before God, surrounded by family and friends. By your choice, your marriage will take place in a service of worship and will have the elements of such a distinctively Christian service. You will see quite clearly the religious elements of the wedding as we go over suggested services with you. Various aspects of Christian teaching about marriage are emphasized throughout the service.

It is your service and therefore it should reflect your faith in God and your relationship with each other. You will be expected to work with the minister in designing the service. The true beauty of the service is your sincerity, your commitment, your dedication, and your determination, which will be shown to each other, and in God’s presence on that day.

Weddings are usually performed in the sanctuary, whether it be a quiet, informal service or a formal wedding.

### **Marriage Preparation**

Marriage is something people enter into as a life commitment. Most people are better prepared for their vacation than they are for their marriage! Since marriage is not automatically successful and the value of pre-marriage counselling and preparation is well proven, it is strongly recommended that both you and your partner experience some form of marriage preparation. The United Church of Canada offers several seminars for those being married. You may want to attend one of these seminars, or another pre-approved marriage course elsewhere. Please check with the minister about dates, times, and other details.

### **Wedding Music**

All music appropriate for use in a church wedding can be selected in cooperation with our organist. When planning music for your wedding, **it is your responsibility to contact and consult with our organist, Tamar Shostakovsky –613-591-3688—cell 613-294-8601**

Hymns are sometimes used in the service either in congregational singing or simply played before the service or during the signing of the register.

### **Rehearsal**

A rehearsal is desirable and is scheduled in conversation with the Minister. A rehearsal may take place in the afternoon or evening of the Wednesday, Thursday or Friday prior to your wedding day. It is helpful to have the entire wedding party present, and that the rehearsal begin at the scheduled time.

### **The Wedding Day**

When your wedding day arrives, hopefully all your plans are complete and things come together as you had planned. Now all you have to do is get to the church!

It is best for the **ushers** to be at the church at least half an hour prior to the starting time.

**The groom, best man and other male attendants** should arrive at the church at least 15 - 20 minutes before the service

**The bride and the rest of the wedding party** should arrive at the church at the time of the service.

Remember: guests tend to wait to be seated until just a few minutes before the scheduled time. Therefore a wedding party that arrives too early can surprise some of your guests. But that's not as bad as being late! Both the groom and his attendants and the bride and her attendants are expected **TO BE ON TIME**. This is a courtesy to all involved and also lessens the anxiety level.

### **Photographs and Videos**

To preserve the sanctity of the wedding service, it is requested that **no photographs** be taken once the minister and wedding party are in their places at the front of the church. Pictures may be taken as the wedding party enters and leaves the church sanctuary and during the signing of the register.

Immediately before the wedding service begins the minister will request that guests refrain from taking pictures, except at these stated times. The wedding party may return to the sanctuary after the service and pictures may be taken then.

A video camera may be used, in consultation with the minister. Once again, bearing in mind the sanctity of the wedding service, lighting for the camera is not to be used. The camera operator will remain in one set position.

### **Flowers**

Flowers should be delivered to the bride's home and brought to the church by the ushers one half hour before the wedding ceremony, unless other arrangements are made in advance. Please check with the minister about decorations, placement, etc.

### **Marriage Licence or Banns**

Persons wishing to marry may do so by licence or banns.

Marriage licences can be purchased from a Marriage Bureau at the



City Hall anywhere in Ontario. Licences cannot be purchased any sooner than three months prior to the wedding day and remain valid for three months from the date of purchase.

Banns are read only for members or adherents in close personal contact with the church, and as the Government form indicates, “are in the habit of worshipping” at their church. If those marrying come from two different congregations, the law requires that the banns must be read in both the church of the intended bride and of the intended groom.

Please deliver your licence or banns form to the church no later than a week before the wedding. Please do not fill in the form; we will do that.

### **Wedding Honoraria**

\$200.00	... Church (There is a down payment of \$100.00 to book the church.)
\$175.00	... Minister
\$125.00	... Organist
\$100.00	... Caretaker

All monies **in cash** should be placed **in separate envelopes**, clearly marked, and brought with the licence at least one week prior to the wedding.

### **A Final Word**

The love that is essential for a long and happy marriage and life together comes from God. As you prepare for this most important commitment, bring God into all your planning, that you may know God’s blessing and strength.

Over the next weeks and months we will meet to plan the details of your service. We will also ensure that all the legal requirements are fulfilled. In the meantime, if you have any questions about your plans and preparations, don’t hesitate to call.

God bless you in your planning.



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