



CANADIAN MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH WEDDING PACKAGE

Congratulations on your engagement! We would be honoured to be a big part of your special day and help to create lasting memories for you and your fiancé.

In this package you'll find everything you need to know about planning your wedding with Canadian Memorial Church. But first to ensure we can help bring your dreams into realities please call our office at 604-731-3101 to confirm that your preferred date is available!

Booking and Fees

Here's some information below on how to book your wedding.

Weddings can be booked in our church sanctuary for:

1. Saturdays at 11am, 1 pm, 3 pm & 5 pm;
2. Fridays at 1 pm, 3 pm & 5 pm; and
3. Sundays at 1:30 pm & 3:30 pm

We do also offer less formal ceremonies in our Great Hall or Fireside Room – perfect for smaller more informal weddings.

We usually allot about two hours for a wedding. This allows for decorating the church, guests arriving, having the wedding ceremony, taking photographs and refreshing the church for the next event. The actual ceremony takes about 25 to 30 minutes so there is lots of time to prep for your big day.

Unfortunately we do not perform weddings on Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, Good Friday or Easter Sunday as the church is busy with other activities.

Currently the fee is \$1,500 for Monday – Saturday weddings and it is subject to change without notice. The fee includes payment for the minister, music director, wedding director, custodian - and the use of the church. We have a user-friendly structure that will facilitate the planning of the church portion of your wedding.

\$2,300 is the fee for a Sunday or Statutory Holiday weekend wedding. The fee includes payment for the minister, organist, wedding director, custodian - and the use of the church.

There can be additional charges for special requests e.g. for one of our soloists or our choirs to sing at your ceremony. If you are looking for something special please inquire when you do your booking.

Finding the perfect venue for your special day is important. We welcome you to tour our facilities by:

- Attending a Sunday service at 10:30 am. This will allow you to see and hear how the church looks & sounds during an event & even hear the organ being played.
- Or by arranging a tour with our Wedding Director to view the church at regularly scheduled site tours (by appointment only). Or both.

Weddings can be booked by submitting a completed booking form with a non-refundable deposit attached to hold confirmed dates for both rehearsal and wedding times:

1. A minimum deposit of \$500 for a Friday or Saturday wedding; or
2. A minimum deposit of \$600 for a wedding on a Sunday or Statutory holiday.

Cheques are payable to Canadian Memorial Church. Both the marriage license & balance are due in the Church Office 2 months (60 days) prior to the wedding date.



Our Sanctuary's Unique History

The Sanctuary was built by the Rev (Lt-Col) G.O. Fallis, C.B.E, E.D., D.D and the firm of Twizell & Twizell in 1927. Rev Fallis made a solemn commitment to the soldiers whose memorials he presided over while he was serving as a chaplain in France to return home and build a peace memorial.

Specifications for the Chapel involved ten stained glass windows; one for each province and the Yukon Territory, as well as the Chancel window at the front and an All-Canada window. The striking part of the story is the unique manner in which funds were raised to underwrite the cost of these windows. The goal – which Rev Fallis accomplished – was to involve Canadians from coast to coast with the ideal of making this a truly national church.

The organ is a Casavant pipe organ donated by Americans and the builders were the pre-eminent organ builders from Quebec. The organ has been restored & maintained and delivers excellent quality sound.

Our heritage sanctuary seats up to 400 people and is suitable for weddings, concerts, music recitals, authors' events and large public gatherings. It features beautiful stained-glass windows and stone façade. A state of the art sound system and technicians are available.

Centre for Peace

If you are holding a small ceremony or want a less traditional atmosphere for your wedding, commitment ceremony or other ritual, the Centre for Peace offers rooms that are suitable for 15 to 200. Our light and airy Great Hall offers high ceilings, lots of natural light and a view of the garden while the Fireside room provides cozy intimacy for smaller ceremonies. To see a full list of our facilities and rates visit the Facilities page.

Parking

There are three or four parking places in front of the church on West 15th Avenue that we reserve for wedding vehicles (we request that residents and public keep those spaces open for these events but compliance is voluntary). Limited parking is available for guests in our parking lot at the Centre for Peace accessed by West 16th Avenue and there are no restrictions on the street parking. The west entrance of the church is wheelchair accessible (accessed either from W15th Ave or the laneway).

Receptions

Located at 1825 West 16th Ave at Burrard, the Centre for Peace has rooms that are suitable for wedding receptions, rehearsal dinners or for a gathering while wedding photos are being taken elsewhere. The Centre has kitchen facilities and tables & chairs and is full of natural light.

Church Address and Maps

Our address for use on wedding invitations is:

**Canadian Memorial Church,
Corner of West 15th Avenue & Burrard Street,
Vancouver, BC.**

Canadian Memorial is comprised of two buildings. Weddings are typically in the church at W15th & Burrard. The Centre for Peace and its Great Hall can be used for wedding receptions and is located behind the church across a laneway at 1825 West 16th Ave. We try to provide the most direct route for wedding guests. Adjacent to the Centre is a 26 car parking lot with 4 additional wheelchair parking spots. Your wedding party and guests are welcome to park at any open spot for your special event. Street parking is also available and most often plentiful.



Planning and Prep for your wedding

Wedding Rehearsal

Rehearsals at Canadian Memorial are conducted by the wedding director. They are a vital component of the wedding process and typically occur on the Thursday evening before your wedding. They comfortably take about three quarters of an hour. It is an opportunity to finalize wedding plans and run through the flow of the wedding. Wedding party and family members can expect to get certainty about all aspects of the wedding ceremony and how it will go. A rehearsal notice will be sent to a couple a couple of months before the rehearsal date with complete guide and information about this event.

Flowers

The church has two pedestals 26" high and one pedestal 41" high on which to place flower arrangements plus two other sets of pedestals. Wedding flowers can be delivered to the church's front doors an hour before the ceremony. Couples with weddings scheduled after 11:00 a.m. should discuss their flower delivery with our wedding director at the time of their rehearsal date. You will be responsible to arrange the pick-up and transport of any flowers or decorations immediately after the ceremony.

Pew Bows

You are welcome to borrow one of two types of pew bows that we have at the church or choose to bring your own if you so desire. (Please use only masking or scotch tape, ribbon or florist hooks when affixing decorations to the pews.)

Church Decorations

There are some occasions when your wedding will have to accommodate decorations in place in the church. The church sanctuary is decorated with appropriate arrangements for the Christmas season for example and periodically throughout the year for other holidays. Queries may be made to the director who might put you in touch with the Liturgical Arts Committee who will be happy to discuss this with you in more detail.

Confetti

Please inform your guests not to throw any kind of confetti, rice or birdseed in or near the church. Bubbles are permissible and rose petals may be carefully negotiated.

Candles

The church has two candelabras which are available to use at the ceremony. The wedding couple provide the candles for these. They each hold seven candles for a total of fourteen preferably 12” candles. NB: White or cream candles are said to photograph much better than dark-coloured candles.

If you wish to perform the unity candle ceremony you will need four additional tall candles plus a centre pillar candle. In addition, you may also bring memorial candles of any size and shape to represent family members who are either absent or deceased. Please refer to the diagram in the FAQ pages of the wedding packet to clarify.

Bring candles and holders, boxed and also in a bag with handles and clearly labeled with your names, wedding date & time to leave with the Wedding Director at your rehearsal.

Photography and Video

We co-operate with your photographer & videographer, giving ample opportunity for fine pictures. Please ask your photographer & videographer to speak to the director or minister before the ceremony for our protocols. Videos are allowed with discretion. The church *cannot* be used as a studio for post-wedding photography, however we try to accommodate a short photo session especially in inclement weather.

Marriage License

You can apply for your marriage license and registration by completing a marriage license application through the Vital Statistics Agency website. Application can be made within 90 days of your wedding date but we ask you to get it 60 days in advance of your wedding. Submit the application with required ID and fee of \$100 to Vital Statistics at their Provincial Government office at #250 – 605 Robson Street, Vancouver, BC or another Marriage License Issuer listed at the same website as well – or – check the website for possible on-line options.

The first half of your wedding license is typically filled in by the issuer when you receive it, however do not sign the form till the wedding. Please take care to enter each of your care card numbers in the spaces marked PHN on the form (Public Health Number) and that the information requested on both sets of parents is also completed before submitting your license to the church office.

The bride and groom are required to enter the full name of each of their fathers and the full maiden names of each of their mothers on the form. The city and country of birth of each parent is also required for the marriage license. Please bring the license and the balance of your fees to the church office two months prior to your wedding.

Immediately after your wedding, your marriage license will be mailed to the Vital Statistics Agency where your marriage will be registered & a wedding certificate issued. Our church will provide you with a temporary certificate that will serve if you intend to travel immediately after your wedding.

Your balance of payment is also due two months prior to your wedding date so please submit this together with your license. If your payment for the balance due is made by cheque, please write your last names *and the date and time of the wedding* in the memo line for easy reference.



Services with a United Church Minister

Our minister is Rev Beth Hayward. If she is not available, we will find you another awesome minister to work with. For more details contact our Wedding Director.

Services with a Guest Minister

If you have a pastor whom you would like to have officiate your wedding ceremony - this can be arranged with the Wedding Director. Please note it that it will not affect the fees of your ceremony - fees remain as they are.

Gay Marriage

We proudly support gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered marriage and the celebration of union ceremonies. We are happy to work with you to design a ceremony that reflects your values and can offer a range of ceremonies in both the Sanctuary or at the Centre for Peace. We have a long history of performing marriages for our brothers and sisters in Christ who cannot marry in their own countries or faith traditions.

Interfaith Marriage

We have performed many interfaith marriages and are happy to work with you to include traditional and contemporary rituals.

Out of Country Weddings

We have held weddings for people from the US, Japan, Taipei, Hong Kong, Korea, Philippines, Mainland China, England, Scotland and Germany to name a few. Our heritage Church is an ideal venue for a visually stunning wedding.

Wedding Music

Our church organist/pianist is available to provide the music at your wedding. A wedding music planner with a full sampler page of internet links has been created for your listening pleasure over time.

You will be sent pertinent wedding packet documents including this easy music planner which makes planning simple. Specific and alternate plans can be discussed with Music Director, Lonnie Delisle at 604-512-2435 or by email at Lonnie@canadianmemorial.org.

If, for some reason, either our ministers or our pianist / organist are unavailable we will assume responsibility for securing the services of another minister or organist. There is a set fee for the wedding and should you wish to provide special music of your own you would make payment arrangements, if they apply, with those musicians directly and in addition to our fee. There would also be an additional charge of \$55/ half hour should a singer that you hire need a practice with our music minister.



Order of Service

At Canadian Memorial you will be offered a wedding ceremony that is uniquely tailored to you and in line with United Church theology. You are requested to make selections for the following four segments of your ceremony – you'll see some suggested options as you continue reading.

1. Scripture and/or Poetry Readings, (at least one scripture should be chosen)
2. Address to the Couple
3. Vows and
4. Exchange of Rings.

We request that you send these selections to Reverend Beth one month prior to your wedding date. Please email beth@canadianmemorial.org including both your names and your wedding date in the subject line.

Once the draft order of service is approved, it will be returned to you and a copy will be sent to our wedding director to use at the wedding rehearsal. Please bring your own copy of the approved service and also the music plan to the rehearsal.

Minister Beth is available for guidance should you wish to make further innovations in your service and will work with you to accommodate them.

Some couples wish to have a printed Order of Service for guests to read. ***The following is an outline of a typical Order of Service if you wish to create your own:***

- Lighting of Family Candles
- Procession
- Welcome and Statement of Purpose
- Opening Prayer
- Scripture and Poetry Readings
- Minister's Address to the Guests
- Minister's address to the Couple
- Statement of Intent
- Affirmation of Support
- Prayer before the Vows
- Exchange of Vows
- Exchange of Rings
- Blessing & Declaration
- The Kiss
- Lighting of the Unity Candle
- Signing of the Register & Documents
- Presentation of Married Couple
- Recessional

Four Segments to Choose From

Scripture Readings

Please select at least **one** scripture **and a second** reading if you wish. Below are some suggestions.

- Genesis 1:26-28, 31a The sixth day of creation
- Ruth 1:1-8, 14-17 Where you go, I will go.
- Song of Solomon 1:15 - 2:4 You are beautiful, my love
- Song of Solomon 2:10-14 Rise Up My Love, my fair one and come away...
- Song of Solomon 8:6-7 A Seal upon your Heart...Love is as Strong as Death
- 1 Corinthians 13 The Gift Of Love
- 19. 1 John 4:7-12 Love One Another
- Matthew 5:10-12a The Beatitudes
- Matthew 5:13-16 Salt and Light
- Matthew 22:35-40 Love, The Greatest Commandment
- John 2:1-11 Wedding at Cana

Minister's Address to the Couple

*Please choose **one** of the following choices, copy & paste - add in your names each time.*

Option A

___ and ___, now you come to forge a future together which is wide enough to hold your hopes. By your promise and your continuing care for one another, you will build a house of memory strong enough to withstand the inevitable encroachments of time, pain, and tragedy.

There is no use pretending that marriage is merely a continuation of romance, or just a ceremony that formalizes your relationship. From the moment you pledge yourselves to each other unconditionally, much will begin to change. As you make a hearth, the

ancient gods and demons of childhood will return to live with you. Ask any here today who have been married for more than five years!

Within the sanctuary of your intimacy, and as the trust between you grows, you will finally become safe enough to allow your deepest fears of abandonment, your long hidden shame, your impolite anger, your infantile omnipotence, your vulnerable dreams, your secret virtues, and the deepest longings of your spirit to emerge into the cleansing light of day.

At long last you will be able to get off stage and explore who you are when you no longer have to pretend. For it is only when we are within the arms that hold us in our brokenness and splendour that we are set free to become ourselves. The poet Rilke has said, "For one human being to love another, that is perhaps the most difficult of our tasks, the ultimate, the last test and proof, the work for which all other work is but preparation."

To attain this love you will need to begin with the realization that you will often fail each other and therefore you can only keep you love alive by practicing the great art of forgiveness. A thousand times you will forget to listen, tread roughly on sacred ground, reopen each other's ancient wounds, say too much or too little, close your heart to care at the very moment compassion is needed.

But your love will remain lively and green if you forgive each other a thousand and one times. And begin again. Be a cheerleader for your partner's passions and dreams. Give each other the gift of freedom to grow into the unique destiny which God intends for them. As challenging as a life-long commitment to each other is, marriage is still the best forum human beings have for the intentional healing and growth of two people.

As important as retaining our individuality in marriage, make no mistake, from this moment on you are no longer merely two individuals. You are an "us". You will do things as an "us" which you may be born of compromise, but can stretch you to explore terrain you would not otherwise have explored. This too, is a gift of relationship.

Finally, do not be deceived. Relationships need attention in order to thrive. This beautiful garden which blesses us today did not magically appear. Much planning, time, tender loving care, and plain old sweat has gone into it. In the same way, that particular garden which is long-term relationships needs time, attention and hard-work in order to thrive, and to be a blessing to others who experience it. Share the responsibility for this act of tending, and you can be a reflection of God's fullest dream for humanity. May God bless you as you embrace your destiny as friends and lovers and all that lies in between.

OR

Option B

___ and ___, your marriage is intended to join you for life in a relationship so intimate and personal that it has the potential of changing your whole way of being together. It offers you the promise of a love which is true and mature. To attain this love you will have to commit yourselves to each other gladly and without reservation for the sake of an deeper and richer life together. May God be your guide and your helper.

Exchange Of Vows

Please choose **one** of the following choices. You may also wish to alter these or write your own vows.

Option A

I, _____ take you, _____ to be my wife/husband;

I promise, before God and these witnesses,

To be your loving and faithful husband/wife;

In plenty and in want;

In joy and in sorrow;

in sickness and in health;

as long as we both shall live.

OR

Option B

I promise you these things:

I will be faithful to you and honest with you.

I will respect you, trust you, honour you, help you, listen to you, and care for you.

I will laugh with you in joy, will grieve with you in sorrow, and grow with you in love,

All that I have, I offer you;

What you have to give, I gladly receive; Wherever you go, I will go.

You are my love.

God keep me true to you always.

OR

Option C

_____ ; I take you to be my wife/husband;

To laugh with you in joy;
To grieve with you in sorrow;
To grow with you in love;
Serving humankind in peace and hope;
As long as we both shall live.

OR

Option D

I, _____ take _____,
to be my husband/wife,
to have and to hold, from this day forward,
for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
as long as we both shall live.

OR

Option E

I, ____, take you, ____ to be my wedded husband/wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part. This is my solemn vow.

OR

Option F

I, ____, take you, ____ to be my husband/wife, and I promise to love and sustain you, from this day forward, in sickness and in health, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, till death shall part us.

Exchange Of Rings

Please choose **one** of the following for your exchange of rings:

Option A

_____, I bring this ring, a symbol of completeness and eternity, and I give it to you to wear so that we will always remember our marriage vows.

OR

Option B

_____, I give you this ring as a symbol of my steadfastness and joy in loving you, and as a pledge to honour you with all that I am and all I shall become for my whole life.

OR

Option C

_____, I give you this ring as a symbol of our completeness and eternity, a symbol of my joy in loving you, and as a pledge to honour you with all that I am and all I shall become for my whole life.

OR

Option D

_____, I give you this ring. As a sign of the vow we have made this day.

OR

Option E

Holding the hands of one another, see gift these hands are to you.

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and vibrant with love; holding yours on your wedding day, as you makes promises to love one another all the days of your lives.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future, as you laugh and cry, as you share your innermost secrets and dreams.

These are the hands that will love you & cherish you through the years of your marriage.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes: tears of sorrow and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will comfort you in illness and hold you when fear or grief wracks your mind.

God, bless these hands that you see before you this day. May they always be held by one another. Give them the strength to hold on during the storms of stress and the dark of disillusionment. Keep them tender and gentle as they nurture each other in their wondrous love. Help these hands to continue building a relationship founded in your grace, rich in caring, and devoted in reaching for your perfection.

