

Planning for the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

Christ Church Cathedral

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Planning for the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

We celebrate with you as you prepare to make a commitment to one another in marriage. These guidelines will assist you in your planning and, we hope, will address the questions you have regarding the liturgy.

As stated in The Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church:

“Christian Marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God. In the Episcopal Church it is required that one, at least, of the parties must be a baptized Christian; that the ceremony be attested by at least two witnesses; and that the marriage conform to the laws of the State and the Canons of this Church.”

Marriage is a public covenant and therefore a public occasion and celebration. The Canon Law of the Episcopal Church also states that Christian marriage is “entered into within the community of faith.” This implies that those coming to be married in the Episcopal Church have a commitment to it by their present or intended regular involvement in, and support of that community of faith as full members of that Christian community.

I. Scheduling Your Wedding

Q. Do we have to be members to have our wedding at the Cathedral?

A. Membership in the Cathedral is not necessary. It is only required that one of the two people in the couple be baptized. To be considered for “member fees” one needs to have been a Cathedral member for at least twelve months. Membership is defined by regular church attendance and making (and paying towards) a financial pledge to our ministry and mission.

Episcopalians who belong to another parish in the Diocese of Connecticut may hold a wedding at the Cathedral. Their parish priest is responsible for the premarital preparation. The parish priest is expected to plan the liturgy in consultation with the Cathedral clergy, but the latter will have the final authority in the planning of the liturgy. One of the Cathedral clergy will assist the parish priest during the service.

Non-members are welcome to have their wedding service at the cathedral. As part of the premarital preparation, the clergy will discuss with the couple their faith backgrounds and their reasons for requesting that their wedding be held in a church. The clergy will be happy to speak with the couple about the possibility of choosing the Cathedral as their spiritual home.

Q. How do we schedule a wedding at the Cathedral?

A. Call the Cathedral office **(860-527-7231)** and ask to speak with a priest on staff. Although you can inquire at this point whether the Cathedral is available for the date you have in mind, and tentatively book the facility, your booking will not be confirmed until the Cathedral receives your \$300 refundable deposit. If we do not receive a deposit within 30 days of the tentative booking date, we will presume that you are no longer interested in having your ceremony at the Cathedral, and the booking will be cancelled.

Q. Is there a wedding rehearsal?

A. Yes. When you schedule your wedding, you also will schedule a rehearsal. Rehearsals are normally scheduled one to two days before the wedding at 5 p.m. in the afternoon.

Q. How long does it take to prepare for a wedding at Christ Church Cathedral?

A. Weddings can take as long to prepare for as you give them! However, it is important to contact the priest *at least six months ahead* of the projected date. This will give adequate time for preparation. As it is a service of worship, the

planning of the ceremony will be under the direction of the Cathedral clergy minister or those delegated by them.

Q. What happens if one or both of us is divorced?

A. Remarriage in the Church after divorce is possible. The Bishop's permission is required and involves petitioning the Bishop through one of the Cathedral clergypersons, the officiating minister at your wedding. This will require additional meetings and earlier notification (at least six months) of your wishes to be married at the Cathedral. No announcements should be made about the proposed wedding until the Bishop's judgment has been secured. *We're sorry, but it will be impossible to consider scheduling a wedding that is fewer than 30 days away for first marriages, and 90 days for remarriage.*

Q. At what point in the process can we be assured that my wedding is on the Cathedral's calendar?

A. The priest can agree to pencil in the date as you begin your conversation about the upcoming wedding. The date is not final until the "**Covenant for a Wedding Ceremony at Christ Church Cathedral**" (p.13) has been signed and sent with the deposit to the Cathedral office. In the case of remarriage, the priest will not be able to finalize the wedding date until he/she receives formal permission from the Bishop. It should be understood that even by signing the Covenant and paying the deposit, the clergy have the right to decline to solemnize any marriage at any time. No plans for a wedding at the Cathedral should be announced before the minister has consented to solemnize the marriage at least two months before the ceremony.

Q. Where is the wedding conducted?

A. The celebration and blessing of a marriage is properly held in the Church or its Chapel.

Q. What are the fees for a Cathedral wedding?

A. See Page 9 for the Fee Schedule. **Please note that fees may change from year to year. However, from the date a deposit has been received, the fees listed on the original wedding booklet will hold. Please retain a copy for your records.** Make separate checks out to *Christ Church Cathedral* (unless otherwise stated) with the specific purpose listed in the "memo" section on each check. *Honoraria* or fees for Cathedral clergy, as well as fees for the Director of Music and sexton are to be made out directly to that individual. All checks must be presented to the Cathedral clergy at the wedding rehearsal.

You may also consider making a thank offering to the Cathedral for the work and ministry that the Cathedral offers in Christ's name. Checks

should be made out to *Christ Church Cathedral* with the memo: *Wedding Thank Offering*.

II. Marriage and Wedding Preparation

Q. What is involved in marriage and wedding preparation?

A. The priest will be preparing you for two important things, your marriage (a life-long relationship) and your wedding (a special event).

Every priest has a different style and program for *marriage preparation*. Typically, a couple will meet with a priest for three to six counseling sessions. Some priests use a standardized instrument or other resource materials as part of the counseling process. The fees for pre-marital counseling by clergy vary. Please speak with the clergy person who will be conducting the sessions. In the case of remarriage, premarital preparation involves a professional counselor whose fees and number of sessions will vary.

In order to begin your *wedding preparation*, the Cathedral clergy person will ask you to complete a “**Wedding Planning**” form (p.12). The information you provide on this form will serve as the primary communication tool for the couple, the priest, the Altar Guild and the Staff in the planning process. The form also will include the information needed for the Cathedral Parish Register.

Q. Now that we have contacted a priest and we have begun premarital and wedding preparation, what do we do next?

A. At this point, there are two key parties to contact. Please contact them several months in advance of your wedding.

The Cathedral Director of Music will assist you in selecting the music for your wedding. Contact Kevin Jones at **(860-527-7231 x112)** or email him at kjones@cccathedral.org as soon as possible and no later than two months prior to the wedding. Related policies regarding musicians and music are in the pages that follow.

Mrs. June Aziz will assist you with your wedding planning regarding altar flowers. Contact Mrs. Aziz at **(860-563-4028)**. Please see the pages that follow for related topics (e.g., Altar Flowers).

Q. How do we plan the music for the wedding?

A. Music greatly enhances a marriage ceremony. The Director of Music will assist you in planning your music selections and securing other instrumentalists and vocal soloists (if that is your plan).

Because the marriage is a sacred service which takes place in a church, the music must be appropriate to the occasion. All music, whether sung, instrumental or organ, must be appropriate for a sacred service. In addition, please note that the Cathedral's pipe organ can play certain types of music, but it is not suited for every type of music. The "**Musical Selections**" sheet Appendix (p.11) lists some of the musical selections, including hymns, that are especially appropriate for a wedding at this Cathedral. Because music is part of the liturgy, the Cathedral clergy will serve as the final authority in music selections for the wedding.

Often the simplest way to begin to choose what music you want at the Procession In and Procession Out (often called the Recessional), is to determine the nature of the ceremony you wish to have. If you have a large wedding party, consider choosing two pieces for the Procession In – one for the bridesmaids, and a different, more solemn, one for the Bride. There are many good CDs on the market of wedding music, but our Director of Music has recorded a number of the choices listed on the Musical Selections sheet on the Cathedral organ. Please ask for a copy of this CD from the main office.

Two pieces that we do not allow here, but which are extremely popular at traditional weddings, are the *Wedding March* from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Mendelssohn; and the *Bridal Chorus* from *Lohengrin*. Neither of these pieces is considered sacred music. Both are drawn from operatic storylines that are not really appropriate to a sacred ceremony. The Mendelssohn piece occurs at the "wedding" of an ox to an ass, and the piece from *Lohengrin* is played before the tragic death of the bride who has been unfaithful to her husband. Put in this context, you can understand our long-standing policy.

Musicians in addition to the Director of Music are optional. A trumpeter (or brass group), flutist, violinist, or other instrument may be desired. A soloist or choir may be included in the ceremony as well. Feel free to discuss these options with the Director of Music. Please note that we do not allow recorded music.

Sheet music for all musicians must be original copies (not photocopies), and any music for accompaniment by the organist must be provided in the key in which it will be performed.

The Cathedral Director of Music will play for all weddings in the Cathedral. If he is not available for the scheduled day of the wedding, he will secure a substitute.

- Q.** How do we arrange for Altar Flowers and other decorations for the wedding?
- A.** The Altar Guild will be happy to discuss options for you for Altar flowers and decorations. Please notify Mrs. Aziz at **(860-563-4028)** at least two months before the wedding. Flowers are ordered at the beginning of each month.

The Altar Flowers for your wedding will be used for the Sunday of the weekend of your wedding. If you would like to designate these flowers as a memorial or a thanksgiving, please let the Cathedral office know this at least one month in advance so names can be listed in the Sunday bulletin (**860-527-7231**). The flower fee includes what we refer to as “standard Sunday flowers.” Any specific flower requests may be possible, but the extra costs will need to be negotiated and agreed upon beforehand.

The following are the guidelines for floral arrangements and decorations in the Cathedral:

1. Two white or pastel color arrangements in the Altar vases may be placed on the retable. Brass planters may be used instead of the vases or one planter may be used under the cross.
2. Altar Flowers may not be removed after the wedding.
3. No artificial, dyed, or silk flowers may be used.
4. The Altar Guild will arrange/place the flowers or greens in the Sanctuary.
5. Aisle candelabra may be used on the pews. White flowers or ribbons may be used to mark the pews reserved for family. Your florist would provide these flowers and ribbons.
6. Please note that no Cathedral furniture is to be moved or removed from the Cathedral without permission of the officiating priest.
7. Aisle runners are not allowed in the Cathedral.
8. Rice, confetti, flower petals, birdseed and other congratulatory items are not to be thrown on Cathedral property.

Q. What is the format of the wedding service?

A. The liturgy (worship service) used for all weddings at the Cathedral is according to **The Book of Common Prayer** of the Episcopal Church (p. 423). A priest from the Cathedral must prepare (or oversee the preparation of) the couple for marriage and officiate or assist at the wedding, regardless of whether they are members or non-members.

There are some options as in the choice of Scripture to be used but no other portion of the liturgy may be deleted or reworded. Other compositions, such as poems and non-scripture readings will not be permitted in the service or in the service bulletin. Such readings are more appropriate at other gatherings of the wedding such as the reception, rehearsal dinner, etc.

Another option is the choice made by the couple, after discussion with the officiant whether or not to have the Holy Eucharist as part of the service. The newly married couple may present the bread and wine. All baptized persons present will be given the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion if that is to be part of the wedding service.

Members of the families or close friends can be invited to read the lessons, or lead psalm(s) and the prayers.

Q. Is a service bulletin required?

A. Yes. On our website, you can download versions of our service bulletins for you to personalize. Email files to Director of Music Kevin Jones one month before the wedding so that the clergy and he can proof the text. The Cathedral will print the service bulletins.

Q. When and where do we get the marriage license?

A. The marriage license is obtained from the Office of Vital Statistics at the Hartford City Hall, 550 Main Street. You must apply for the license in person. *There is a four-day waiting period* after you have applied for the license. Once it has been issued, it is valid for 65 days.

The officiant must have your license before the ceremony. Please bring the marriage license with you to the rehearsal. The officiant will sign the license following the ceremony and send it to City Hall. You may obtain a certified copy through City Hall for your files.

The Cathedral Parish Register will have a record of the wedding signed by the bride and groom, two of their witnesses and the minister.

III. The Wedding Rehearsal

Q. How long does the wedding rehearsal take?

A. Allow 1½ hours for the rehearsal. *Please emphasize to your wedding party the importance of being on time for the rehearsal. Again, there will be a 30-minute grace period for a late start to the rehearsal, after which the deposit will be forfeited and the wedding conducted without a rehearsal.*

Checks must be presented to the Cathedral clergy at the wedding rehearsal.

IV. The Wedding Day

Q. How long can we have the Cathedral on the day of the wedding?

A. A couple is scheduled for a two-hour segment on the Cathedral's calendar. This is adequate for a ½-hour gathering time, the wedding liturgy, and ½ hour for photography following the ceremony (if desired).

It is absolutely essential that the wedding start on time and that the couple and wedding party, and their guests, depart within the time allowed. Please respect the fact that staff and Altar Guild need to begin to prepare the Cathedral for the next event.

Please note also that the priest and musicians likely have other commitments on the day of your wedding. A late start will cause problems for them and for many other people, including your guests. Please respect their schedules. *There is a 45 minute grace period from the announced time of the wedding, after which the priest reserves the right to cancel or postpone the wedding and the musician is free to leave.*

Please plan to have a receiving line, if that is your desire, at the Reception and not at the Cathedral.

Q. What about Photography?

A. We have guidelines that are meant to preserve the dignity and sacredness of your marriage ceremony. If you contract with a photographer and/or videographer, they must speak to the Cathedral clergy before the ceremony to discuss logistics of where they may place themselves in the Cathedral. The photographer should speak with the clergy prior to the day of the wedding to clarify any questions.

The photographer is permitted to take pictures of the wedding party as they gather and dress before the service begins. During the processional, the photographer may stand at the front of the church and take pictures of the bride walking down the aisle.

During the service, which begins after the procession with the words “Dearly Beloved: We have come together . . .” and ends with the recession, **absolutely no flash photography** is allowed, and the photographer must then be stationary for the rest of the service. Non-flash photography and videography without special lighting are permitted only by previously arranged understanding with the officiant. These may be done: 1) from the balcony, or 2) behind the choir pews on either side of high altar.

The Cathedral will be available for ½ hour following the ceremony for photographs.

We ask that you please inform your photographer of these guidelines so that there are no misunderstandings on your wedding day. Your understanding is appreciated.

FEE SCHEDULE

Date deposit received _____

Wedding couple names _____

Cathedral Members (for at least 12 months):

Cathedral Clergy:

Premarital Preparation	check with clergy
<i>Honorarium</i> for conducting the wedding service	optional
Building Use (for Rehearsal and Wedding)	none
Sexton Fees (check payable to “John Scott”)	\$150
Altar flowers for wedding and Sunday following (standard Sunday flowers, special orders to be negotiated)	\$250
Director of Music (check payable to “Kevin Jones”)	
Consulting, Wedding	\$250
Wedding Rehearsal (optional)	\$50
Extra Music Rehearsal (required if there is a soloist)	\$75
Additional Instrumentalists, Soloists	varies

Members of other churches in the Diocese of Connecticut

Parish Clergy/Officiant (clergy person who conducts the service):

Premarital Preparation	check with clergy
<i>Honorarium</i> for conducting the wedding service	optional
Cathedral Clergy (if they assist the parish clergy/officiant):	
Fee for assisting during service	\$200
Building Use (for Rehearsal and Wedding) and Bulletin printing	\$500
Sexton Fees (check made out to “John Scott”)	\$150
Altar flowers for wedding and Sunday following (standard Sunday flowers, special orders to be negotiated)	\$250
Director of Music (check payable to “Kevin Jones”)	
Consulting, Wedding	\$250
Wedding Rehearsal (optional)	\$50
Extra Music Rehearsal (required if there is a soloist)	\$75
Additional Instrumentalists, Soloists	varies

Non-Members

Cathedral Clergy/Officiant (clergy person who conducts the service):

Premarital Preparation	\$300 - \$450
Fee for conducting the service	\$200
Building Use (for Rehearsal and Wedding) and Bulletin printing	\$900
Sexton Fees (check payable to “John Scott”)	\$150
Altar flowers for wedding and Sunday following (standard Sunday flowers, special orders to be negotiated)	\$250
Director of Music (check payable to “Kevin Jones”)	
Consulting, Wedding	\$250
Wedding Rehearsal (optional)	\$50
Extra Music Rehearsal (required if there is a soloist)	\$75
Additional Instrumentalists, Soloists	varies

A List of Some Appropriate Music for your Wedding

What follows is a small list of suggested music for use at your wedding. This is divided into five sections: Pre-nuptial; Procession In; Hymns and Service Music, Procession Out, and Solos and choral pieces. There are many more choices than these, but this list can at least function as a brief guide. An asterisk beside a title denotes pieces that are on the Cathedral Sampler of Wedding Music CD, available upon request from the Cathedral office.

A. Pre-nuptial

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, BWV 161	J.S. Bach
*Air from the Orchestral Suite in D	Bach
Chorale Prelude <i>Dearest Jesus, We are Here</i>	Bach
Canon	Johann Pachelbel
Sonata in E-flat	W.A. Mozart
Concerto in a minor	Vivaldi/Bach
Prelude and Fugue in E-flat, BWV 552	Bach
Prelude on <i>Rhosymedre</i>	Ralph Vaughan Williams
*Sheep May Safely Graze, BWV 208	J.S. Bach
Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now	Johann Walther
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	Robin Milford
Abide, O Dearest Jesus	Sigrid Karg-Elert
*Prelude and Fugue in A Major, BWV 536	Bach

B. Procession In

*Trumpet Tune in D	Henry Purcell
*Trumpet Voluntary	Jeremiah Clarke
*Prelude to a <i>Te Deum</i>	Marc-Antoine Charpentier
Trumpet Tune "Cebell"	Henry Purcell
Canon in D	Pachelbel
Hymns such as	
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (657) or	
"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (376)	

C. Liturgical Music

1. Psalms can be sung to simplified Anglican chant, or could be chanted by a soloist
Metrical Psalms (a paraphrase of a psalm sung to a popular hymn-tune) can also be used

2. Sequence Hymn:

339, 350, 351, 352, 353, 376, 377, 378, 379, 388, 390, 396, 397, 400, 410, 416,
516, 518, 176, 577, 581, 593, 606, 645, 646, 657 to name a few. (Hymnal 1982)

If there is to be Eucharist:

3. Presentation Hymn: Any of the above

4. *Sanctus* S130 by Franz Schubert or S129 by Robert Powell or S125 by Richard Proulx

5. *Agnus Dei* S164 by Schubert

Note: If liturgical music is to be included in your wedding ceremony, these must be reproduced in your wedding program. The Cathedral Music office can assist you in procuring the TIF files, and in procuring copyright permission.

D. Procession Out

Toccata (Symphonie V)

Charles-Marie Widor

Rondeau (Sinfonia da Fanfares)

Jean-Joseph Mouret

*Prelude and Fugue in G Major

Bach

“In thee is gladness”

Bach

**Allegro Maestoso* (Water Music)

Handel

**Final* (Symphony I)

Louis Vierne

*Rigaudon

André Campra

Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 547

Bach

E. Solo and Choral Music

Solos

Ave Maria

either Franz Schubert or Bach/-Gounod

The Wedding Song (Whither Thou Goest)

Flor Peeters

or Heinrich Schütz

I am my beloveds

Maurice Goldman

The Call (Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life)

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Choral anthems (For 4 or more voices)

Set me as a seal upon thine heart

William Walton

Rise up, my love, my fair one

Healey Willan

Ave verum Corpus

W.A. Mozart

Listen, sweet dove

Grayston Ives

Canon 18
“Marriage Canon” of
The Episcopal Church

We, _____ and _____ desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.

We believe that the union of husband and wife, in heart, body, and mind, is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God’s will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God’s help thereto.

Signatures _____ Date _____
_____ Date _____

Please sign and return during pre-marriage preparation.

Please fill out and return to a Cathedral clergy person.

Wedding Planning

Bride's Name _____
Address _____
Telephone (home) _____ (work) _____
(cell phone) _____ e-mail _____
Date of Birth _____ Age _____ Place of Birth _____
Baptized: Yes No Denomination _____
Current Church Affiliation, if any _____
Father's Name _____ Deceased? _____
Mother's Name _____ Deceased? _____
Have you been married previously? Yes No If "yes," how many times? _____
Date(s) of Marriage(s) _____
Divorce decree must be presented to Officiant within two weeks of the first meeting.
Date(s) of Divorce Decree(s) _____
Names and ages of any children _____

Groom's Name _____
Address _____
Telephone (home) _____ (work) _____
(cell phone) _____ e-mail _____
Date of Birth _____ Age _____ Place of Birth _____
Baptized: Yes No Denomination _____
Current Church Affiliation, if any _____
Father's Name _____ Deceased? _____
Mother's Name _____ Deceased? _____
Have you been married previously? Yes No If "yes," how many times? _____
Date(s) of Marriage(s) _____
Divorce decree must be presented to Officiant within two weeks of the first meeting.
Date(s) of Divorce Decree(s) _____
Names and ages of any children _____

Date and Time of Wedding _____
Officiant _____
Assisting Cathedral Clergy (if s/he is not the Officiant) _____
Date and Time of Rehearsal _____

Communion? Yes No No. of persons invited to wedding: _____
Total no. of attendants for both bride and groom: _____ No. of ushers: _____
Others in the procession: _____

Location of Reception _____

**Covenant for a Wedding Ceremony
at
Christ Church Cathedral**

We, _____ and _____

intend to be married (or have our marriage blessed) on _____ at _____
(a.m./p.m) with _____ conducting the service.

We understand that a **\$300 refundable deposit** made out to *Christ Church Cathedral* and mailed into the Cathedral office with a copy of this form will secure the date and time for the wedding service.

We understand that time is a precious commodity, especially for those church members who freely give of their time so that our wedding day might run smoothly. It is the expectation that the wedding will begin at the time stated above. Barring any unfortunate and unforeseen medical emergency or traffic accident, the bride and groom, their families and the entire wedding party must be present at the church no later than fifteen (15) minutes before the service.

If the wedding ceremony or the rehearsal begins within fifteen (15) minutes of the set time, we will be refunded the entire \$300 deposit.

If the ceremony or the rehearsal begins fifteen (15) to thirty (30) minutes late, \$150 will be returned.

The entire \$300 deposit will be forfeited if the ceremony or the rehearsal begins more than thirty (30) minutes after the agreed upon time.

The deposit may also be partially refunded if picture-taking runs over the allotted time after the service.

If the ceremony has not begun within forty-five (45) minutes of the set time and the wedding party is not at the church and has not called the clergy to inform them of their whereabouts, the assembled guests will be informed that they should proceed to the reception and the clergy will perform a private ceremony in the Dean's study.

Signed by:

Groom

Bride

Date

Please mail to the Cathedral office along with your deposit.