

# Guidelines to WEDDINGS at St. Andrew's



We are delighted you are interested in making St. Andrew a part of your wedding celebration. We want to do everything possible to make sure your wedding is a wonderful and memorable occasion. Even more importantly, as you begin your new life together, we also want to do all we can to support you in building the strongest possible marriage. We hope this will be a time in which you come to know Jesus Christ in a deeper way. With all this in mind, we have developed the following wedding guidelines to help in your thinking and planning and deciding if St. Andrew is the church for you. Please read carefully what we have to say, then feel free to share any questions or comments you may have.

## **1. An Overview**

The Bible teaches us to hold marriage in very high regard. The Anglican Marriage believes: "Marriage is a gift of God and a means of his grace. It is a way of life that all should reverence, and none should lightly undertake." At St. Andrew we "reverence" marriage by taking each aspect of planning and preparation seriously.

Marriage is God's good gift to humankind - both Christian and non-Christian. It was instituted by God himself and was intended from the beginning to reflect God's love and faithfulness to the whole human race. Recognizing this, St. Andrew marriage preparation is open to people at all stages of their spiritual journey - from the honestly seeking to the committed follower of Jesus.

While Christians have no monopoly on marriage, it is Christ's living presence in a couple's life together, and mutual submission to his authority (based in love), which sets Christian marriages apart. Therefore, we are convinced the most effective thing we can do to support marriages is to point to Jesus Christ and to help couples grow in their relationship with him. If you are already married and are seeking a Christian blessing for your marriage, we would be pleased to support you in this endeavour.

## **2. Who gets married at St. Andrew?**

At St. Andrew we are committed to ensuring the highest quality of care for the couples married here. We are prepared to invest time and energy in every wedding we do. Of course, our resources are not unlimited. For this reason, we only perform weddings for members of the parish. A member of St. Andrew is defined as someone who seeks to follow Christ as Lord, regularly attends services here and supports the ongoing ministry of this church.

If you are not a member currently, but are interested, we would love to help you. Marriage is an exciting time, and it can become a great deal more exciting and meaningful through understanding more about Jesus Christ.



## **3. Initial Application**

If you are interested in making this commitment to be married at St. Andrew, first begin attending a Sunday morning service and speak to one of our Clergy. They will be able to answer any initial questions you have regarding the ceremony. Next the Application for Marriage Preparation form will need to be completed and submitted to the church office, to the attention of the Parish Ministry Coordinator. A member of the clergy team will call you at this point to advise you of the next steps. Your wedding ceremony is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation letter outlining planning details.

#### **4. Officiating Clergy**

St. Andrew clergy perform all weddings at St. Andrew. We cannot guarantee a specific Cleric will officiate at your wedding, but rest assured we can guarantee a Clergy person will be assigned to support you, based on availability and the information you provide in your initial application. It is also vital to note the Officiating Clergy will be delighted to work with you as a couple but will not work through family members, wedding planners or other ancillary help you might have chosen.

#### **5. Date and Time of Your Wedding**

Choosing the right day and time for your wedding is an important detail. To allow for photographs, set-up and cleanup, at least three hours must be allowed between weddings and there will be a maximum of two weddings on any given day. The space chosen for your wedding will be reserved for three hours - 1 hour prior for setup, 1 hour for the ceremony and 1 hour post ceremony to allow for cleanup. Weddings are not performed during the week before Easter, the month of December or on Sundays. Six months notice is required to schedule a wedding. Date and time slots are filled only upon confirmation of commitment and on a first-come, first-served basis.

#### **6. Marriage Preparation**

“Your wedding is one day - your marriage is a lifetime.” At St. Andrew, we want all the couples married here to have the strongest possible marriage. To help you achieve this goal, we require you to participate in the parish’s marriage preparation program. Our current program involves:

- a. Completing our course in the basics of the Christian faith, Alpha.
- b. Completing an onsite “Marriage Preparation” program with course leader The Rev. Brian Murray, a well known educator and marriage therapist and ordained minister of the Anglican Church of Canada. This program is designed to help couples successfully navigate the transition from engagement to a solid new marriage. Based on clinical research into why some marriages fail and others succeed, this program provides a pre-marital workshop and on-line support for couples (telephone and internet) up to the end of the first year of marriage. As participants, you will have access to qualified, professional marriage therapists who will support you during the crucial formative months of your marriage.
- c. Attending pre-marital counselling meetings with the Clergy person performing your ceremony.

#### **7. Divorce/Remarriage**

If either of you has been divorced, a Clergy person will meet with you to discuss the issues surrounding your remarriage. Permission for remarriage in the Anglican Church must be obtained from the Rector of the parish. This process takes a minimum of six months.

#### **8. Legal Requirements**

You must obtain a Marriage Licence at any City Hall in Ontario. It is not necessary for both of you to go, but you must have proper identification for both of you and your Certificate(s) of Divorce if applicable. It is valid for 90 days.

If you are to be married at St. Andrew, this licence must be in the St. Andrew Church Office, marked “wedding licence”, at least one month before the wedding service. As a memento of your wedding, a Record of Solemnization of Marriage will be given to you by the Officiating Clergy. Please note, however, that this is not an official legal certificate. The marriage certificate is issued by the Province of Ontario and can be obtained at the same place you applied for your marriage licence.

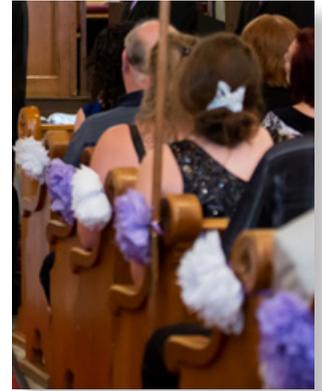


## **9. Facilities and Service Details**

Parking – St. Andrew has a parking lot at the rear of the church. There is also parking on the street out front, as well, additional parking can be arranged with the Orange Hall next door to the church.

The Order of Service - St. Andrew provides order of services that follow The Book of Alternative Services. Participation by non-parish clergy or musicians within the service is limited to a number of specific roles, subject to direction by the Officiating Cleric. The Officiating Clergy will choose what participation is appropriate.

Church Decorations - As part of our service to you, the flowers for the High Altar for the coming Sunday are coordinated with you as much as possible. The Flower Convenor, a member of the St. Andrew Chancel Guild, will be glad to discuss your request with you (contact information will be provided once your wedding date has been confirmed). You are welcome to bring in additional flower arrangements and pew decorations at your expense and with the permission of the Officiating Cleric. These belong to you and can be taken with you for your Reception if you wish. The church also has a pair of candelabra you may borrow. If you give us advance notice, we will see the church is unlocked for florists and other authorized persons one hour prior to the ceremony.



No Confetti, Rice, Flower Petals or Birdseed Please - in consideration of the church property, please ensure no confetti, rice, flower petals or birdseed are thrown either in or about the church facilities.

Photographs and Video - Photographs and video are a welcome way to preserve special memories of your wedding. We ask you, however, to remind your photographer and guests to respect this sacred space and the dignity of the service by not taking flash pictures during the actual ceremony. Guests may take photos during the Processional, Recessional, and the Signing of the Registers. Please refer to the “Wedding Photography and Videography Policy” for more in-depth details. Our staff will be glad to meet with your official photographer and/or videographer on the day of your wedding to show them the best locations for unobtrusive shots using available light during the service.

Service Bulletins - Some couples want to provide a service bulletin for those who attend their wedding. We are happy to help with planning and producing a simple bulletin for you. We are able to provide 125 black and white bulletins. Should you like to have colour bulletins, these are available at an additional cost. Please let the Clergy person know as early as possible (no later than one month before your wedding) if you would like St. Andrew to provide service bulletins for your guests. The Clergy conducting your ceremony will have final approval of the bulletin.

## **10. Invitations**

Please do not have your invitations printed until the date and time of your wedding have been fully confirmed by St. Andrew. The suggested form for the address of the church is:

St. Andrew Anglican Church  
125 Wellington St. W.  
Alliston, ON L9R 1H8

## **11. Wedding Music**

Arrangements for the music are in the hands of the Music Director. He is available to discuss with you hymns and other music you would like to have included. He is also available to make suggestions, and, if you have no requests for particular music, he will be happy to make appropriate selections for you. All music must be suitable for a service

