



# CHRIST'S CHURCH CATHEDRAL

HAMILTON ONTARIO

## Guide to Marrying at the Cathedral

We are delighted that you are interested in being married at the Cathedral, and we welcome your inquiry. Weddings are special and sacred events, and we want to help you plan your wedding in such a way that it both conforms to the norms and expectations we have here at the Cathedral and is both appropriate and memorable for you and your families. The information contained in this brochure is designed to give you some assistance as you begin the planning. We are here to help and can always answer any questions you may have.

### 1. Booking

Our Diocese requires a minimum of 60 days' notice before the ceremony. Please confirm the date and time with the Cathedral before you sign a contract with a reception hall.

### 2. How much will it cost?

The cost of a wedding is dependent upon the options you choose. Please contact our [Parish Coordinator](#) for up-to-date fees. The Anglican Church requires couples to participate in Marriage Preparation. These courses are available locally and on-line and registration fees could vary.

### 3. Do I have to be an Anglican?

No. But one of you must be baptized a Christian by the time of the wedding. As part of the process of preparations, arrangements can be made to be baptized before the wedding service.

### 4. Licence

All couples must purchase a Marriage Licence. Licences can be obtained through the office of the Town Clerk at a cost which is adjusted from time to time. You will need to provide identification, birth information for parents, and if divorced, a copy of the certificate and court file numbers.

The License is valid for 90 days after the date of issue. We suggest that you do not leave it to the last minute, nor purchase it too soon. After the wedding you will need to pay an additional fee to receive a marriage certificate from the Registrar General of the province, which is the only legal proof of your marriage. A couple may, as a courtesy, have banns read in the Cathedral

only if they are members in good standing of a church congregation for 6 months prior to the date of the wedding, and only if they are present in one of their home congregations on each of the three Sundays preceding the wedding. The Anglican Church no longer performs marriages on the basis of banns alone.

## **5. What else do we need to do?**

We ask all couples to meet with one of the clergy prior to the wedding. We will cover various details: the date and time, options for participation in a program of marriage preparation, and questions about the form of service. There is also the marriage licence, and final details of the service prior to the rehearsal itself. We require a copy of the marriage licence to be received at least two weeks prior to the ceremony. The cleric will also confirm a date and time for the wedding rehearsal.

## **6. Wedding Party**

You must each have a principal witness (Maid/Matron of Honour, Best Man). In addition, there are often groomsmen, bridesmaids, flower girls, ring bearers, and others. We encourage people to keep the size of the wedding party appropriate to the size of the wedding itself.

## **7. Last thoughts**

Normally, the Cathedral organist provides all music to be used at the wedding. Other musicians may be included in the wedding but only with the authorization of the organist. The inclusion of the Celebration of the Eucharist is encouraged at all weddings and the clergy will be able to advise the couple on these details. Photographers and videographers are often a part of the wedding, and we will do everything to accommodate their needs, while maintaining the integrity of the services as a holy and sacred moment. The Cathedral will assist with flower arrangements, decorations, candles, etc. Parking is available at the rear (East side) of the Cathedral but is limited to approximately 35 cars.

## **8. Getting Started**

Contact the Cathedral's Parish Coordinator, Tricia Kalantari, at [cathedral.admin@niagaraanglican.ca](mailto:cathedral.admin@niagaraanglican.ca) or by phone at (905) 527-1316 x 240. She will arrange an initial meeting for the couple with a member of the Cathedral clergy.