



## **Weddings at Strathmore United Church**

410-4th Street, Strathmore, AB, T1P 1B4  
403.934.3025

**smoreuc@gmail.com**

A church wedding is a religious ceremony in which two people have their marriage sanctified in the presence of God. It is also a civil ceremony and is recognised by law. Our minister is licensed by both the province and the church to perform the ceremony and to serve as a legal witness.

For Christians marriage is also a covenant through which two people are called to live together before God their lives of discipleship. The wedding service is publicly witnessed and acknowledged by the community of faith.

You do not need to be a member or a participant of this congregation in order to have your wedding here. The information provided in this brochure applies to weddings, covenant services, and renewal of marriage covenant vows.

**We welcome you to our church and we welcome you to any of our services so we can get to know one another. We welcome your family, friends, and wedding party to our house of worship and pray your marriage will be a life-long celebration of love, commitment, respect and faithfulness.**

## **FEES FOR SERVICE**

Once you and your partner have decided to have a church wedding or covenant service, you need to contact the minister and arrange a date for the service.

Minister \$400 (*negotiable*)

Sanctuary \$150 (*must submit to church office to reserve date*)

Organist/Pianist \$250 (*optional*)

Wedding Hostess \$100 (*required*)

Weddings can be done at *almost* any place you choose. If you choose to be married in a location outside of the church, the \$150 deposit serves as an honorarium to the church; the minister's fee of \$400 (*plus mileage*) would be paid separately.

***All fees must be paid before the day of the wedding.*** Cheques or cash are accepted, and must be paid to the church, the minister, the hostess and the musician separately.

The minister's fee is negotiable. If the agreed upon amount is not paid, the minister reserves the right to not register the marriage until payment has been received or other arrangements made. The legal status of church blessed covenants varies from province to province.

## ***SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW***

**Presider** – The minister of our church, or our minister’s designated replacement, will preside at your wedding. If there is no United Church minister available, you may make a request to the Strathmore United Church Council to provide your own minister. This guest minister must be licensed by his/her own church and the province of Alberta to preside at weddings to be eligible for consideration by our Council. *Marriage Commissioners cannot preside at a wedding held in a church.*

**Communion** may be served during the ceremony if you choose.

**Children** of your partnership or from previous partnerships can be included in the covenant if you choose.

**Flowers and Decorations** are permitted in the narthex, the foyer, on the pews and around the chancel area. Seasonal church decorations, such as banners, remain in place for weddings. *Please ensure that someone from your wedding party remains behind to remove your wedding decorations after the wedding service!*

**Rice, confetti, birdseed, and bubbles** are not used at the church.

**Silk Flower petals** down the center aisle may be used, but removal of the petals following the ceremony is the responsibility of the wedding party. Real petals may not be used.

**Furniture**—The pulpit, pews, organ, communion table and baptismal font are permanent fixtures and may not be moved.

**Photographs** and/or video recordings during the service are allowed. Your photographer should confer with the minister for a clear understanding of how the minister and photographer team together in ways that are mutually respectful. The service is arranged in such a way as to provide several opportunities for photographs to be taken.

Normally, there are **no weddings** on Sunday's, or during the liturgical seasons of Advent, Lent or Christmas.

**Musicians** or music are arranged separately. We have musicians who may be available.

An **Order of Service** for the wedding guests is not generally provided. If you would like to have one printed, you can choose from several bulletin covers. There is an added cost for the order of service which depends upon the cost of purchasing and printing the covers.

**A Provincial Marriage License** & registration of marriage application is available from the Alberta Registry agent. You will be asked to pay a fee for the license. *We cannot do a legally recognized wedding unless you have the license!*

## **BEFORE THE WEDDING**

We will need to meet together. We will go over the service and choose the scripture, blessings and prayers which form the service. This is your special day, and it is important that the ceremony is one that you will cherish and remember through the years to come.

Sometimes, people just are not ready for a big step like marriage. If the minister feels that more time is needed before the wedding, he/she might suggest that we wait a while, just to make sure that this marriage is one that will stand the test of time.

A 6 session **marriage preparation** course is available from the minister. There is no fee for this service, though you are encouraged to make a donation to our mission fund. You may also choose to take a marriage preparation course from one of several secular agencies which provide this service. A marriage preparation course is NOT a counselling session, and is required before the wedding can take place.

There are to be **no drugs or alcohol** at the wedding, and if there is any indication that a member of the wedding party is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the minister reserves the right to refuse to do the ceremony.

We will meet a day or two before the wedding for a **rehearsal**, just to make sure that everyone knows what to expect on the day of the wedding.

## **THE WEDDING DAY!**

During the service, we will sign the church register, and the provincial registration form. The provincial registration will be mailed to the Alberta Registrar's office by the minister.

You may pick up the church issued **wedding certificate** after the wedding, or have it mailed to you. Please let the presider know your preference.

**The bride** must sign the provincial and church registries with her legal name as shown on her birth certificate.

After the wedding, the bride can use the church issued marriage certificate to change her surname to her husband's. *This is your choice, based on your personal preferences and cultural considerations.* It is not required that a woman take the surname of the man she marries.

Thank you for choosing our church for your wedding!  
We need to know a few things about you:

<b>Full Name</b>	
Address	
Phone	
Email	
<b>Full Name</b>	
Address	
Phone	
Email	
<b>Date Of Wedding</b>	

Deposit	\$150 non refundable deposit enclosed
Location	

Please send this request for a wedding service to:  
**Strathmore United Church**  
**410 Fourth St.**  
**Strathmore AB**  
**T1P 1B4**

**Tel: 403-934-3025 Fax: 403-934-3081**  
**Email: [smoreuc@gmail.com](mailto:smoreuc@gmail.com)**

Deposit cheque to be made payable to  
**Strathmore United Church**

