



Planning a Wedding at Westhill

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WESTHILL PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

WEDDING POLICY

Westhill Park Baptist Church is available for Saturday weddings. The wedding will be scheduled around the availability of our pastor and/or our facility. The wedding ceremony would be an Evangelical Christian ceremony. If you want to have someone who is not a pastor on staff at Westhill officiating at your wedding, that request is subject to the approval of our Senior Pastor (or designate).

Couples planning to have their wedding at Westhill Park Baptist Church will agree to adhere to the following wedding policy:

1. A request must be submitted to the **Senior Pastor/designate** for any wedding to be held at Westhill Park Baptist Church, whether or not he is the Officiant.
2. It is expected that all couples married at Westhill Park Baptist Church will participate in **pre-marriage counseling**, as recommended by the officiating pastor.
3. Wedding fees (includes technical support, custodian and pastoral services/use of facility):
 - i) Regular Week-end \$500.00
 - ii) Long Week-end \$600.00
4. All weddings will be booked through the church secretary. The wedding is considered booked once the completed booking form is submitted and approved by the Senior Pastor/designate and the honorarium and any other costs ie: candelabra, have been paid. If the wedding is cancelled within 72 hours of the specified date, the honorarium will be refunded.
5. Weddings are usually held in the Sanctuary. Receptions are not normally held in the church and require special permission from the Senior Pastor/designate.
6. The church will be open for a **1-hour rehearsal on Friday after 6:30 pm**, to be scheduled with the secretary. An appropriate time to **decorate** must also be scheduled with the secretary. Adhesive tape or nails/tacks may **not** be used in the decorating. Pew bows can only be fastened with elastic. All floor decorations should be free-standing.
7. On the day of the wedding, the church will be made available one hour prior to the ceremony. Rooms will be provided at the church for the bridal party and for the groomsmen. The church will be open for 30 minutes following the ceremony. Please ensure that **all decorations are removed immediately following the service**.
8. The church is a **non-smoking and non-alcoholic** facility. No drinking or smoking is permitted in the church or on church property. Also, due to the problem of clean-up, **NO confetti, rice or real/fake flower petals** are to be thrown in or around the church.

9. *Booking of musicians is the responsibility of the bride and groom. An honorarium for musicians is the responsibility of the bride and groom.*
10. *A draft version of the Order of Service and all multimedia sources that will be used for the ceremony (CDs, DVDs, presentations, etc.) are required by the church at least one week prior to the wedding.*
11. *The 2 (two) church candelabra (with candles) are available for a fee of \$35.00; white candles for the church rail candle holders may be used (\$50.00 for 28 candles). No candles except those supplied by the church may be used. The caretaker will put up and take down the candles. No scented candles are allowed in the church.*
12. *Westhill Park Baptist Church has adopted the position "Marriage: A Statement Affirming a Christian View", put forth and approved by the Canadian Baptist's of Western Canada (CBWC) at their Biennial Assembly in 2012. All marriages performed by pastors of Westhill Park Baptist Church or that take place at Westhill Park Baptist Church must be in accordance with their statement as follows:*

Baptist Union of Western Canada

Position on Marriage

A Statement Affirming a Christian View

We would define marriage as: 1) a publicly recognized covenanting together for life; 2) between a woman and a man who live together in a relationship; 3) characterized by truth; and 4) fidelity, and for the purpose of 5) lifelong companionship, mutual interdependence and responsibility for each other, and potential procreation; 6) symbolic of God's relationship to His people and Jesus Christ's relationship to His church.

Publicly Recognized

The public recognition of marriage gives it an important social status. Marriage takes on a public purpose as the cornerstone of the family unity, which in turn is foundational to society. Public recognition implies not only social status, but also social responsibility.

Between a man and a woman

In marriage, a man and a woman are united together and become one flesh. Male and female, together being made in the image of God, while different are yet complementary. It is the only union which has the possibility of procreation, the continuance of the species.

Characterized by Troth

Troth is a commitment to love and nurture an intimate and mutually supportive relationship characterized by mutual submissiveness and other-centered love.

Exclusive

The partners in a marriage relationship commit themselves to maintain the marriage for life. The marriage relationship is between a man and a woman, which is exclusive in the emotional and physical intimacy it fosters. It should be characterized by fidelity.

Lifelong

Marriage is a type of covenant, that is, a publicly recognized pledge between a woman and a man to fulfill a lifelong commitment for the purposes of companionship and potentially, partnership in procreation.

Symbolic of Christ's Relationship to the Church

Marriage is a uniting of dissimilar entities, is symbolic of spiritual unity and forms an example of co-humanity. The Apostle Paul refers to it as a great mystery (Ephesians 5:32) which symbolizes the relationship between Christ and the body of Christ, the Church. It is also the prime relationship within which children are begotten and nurtured. It is the cornerstone of the family.