



PLANNING A WEDDING AT WESTHILL

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Planning your wedding? How exciting!

A wedding at WESTHILL PARK BAPTIST CHURCH (WPBC) is an Evangelical Christian ceremony. Our pastoral staff is available to officiate at your ceremony if requested. Approval of your request is based on your agreement with our wedding policy as stated below, as well as the availability of a pastor (if requested), technical staff and/or our facility. Any request to have someone officiate who is not a pastor on staff at Westhill is subject to the approval of our Senior Pastor/designate. Maximum capacity of our sanctuary is approximately 400 people.

WESTHILL'S WEDDING POLICY

- 1. Wedding requests are to be submitted to the church secretary.*
- 2. The ceremony is booked once the completed BOOKING FORM is submitted and approved by the Senior Pastor/designate and the fees and any other additional costs have been paid ie: candelabra.*
- 3. All couples married at WPBC are expected to participate in pre-marriage counselling. There is no cost involved if a Westhill pastor is officiating. Dates and times will be arranged with the officiating pastor.*
- 4. Wedding ceremonies take place in the sanctuary on a Saturday (mid-morning or mid-afternoon, no later than 3 pm). Any request for a different day/time must be approved by the Senior Pastor/designate.*
- 5. The church will be available for a 1-hour rehearsal on Friday after 6:30 pm. Any request for a different day/time must be approved by the Senior Pastor/designate.*
- 6. Receptions are not normally held in the church and require special permission from the Senior Pastor/designate. There is space available for a rehearsal dinner, with an additional charge.*
- 7. Wedding fees (including pastoral services/use of facility, Audio/Visual support & custodial services):*
 - i) Regular Week-end \$500.00*
 - ii) Long Week-end \$600.00*
- 8. Booking of musicians and/vocalists & payment of any honorarium is the responsibility of the bride and groom.*

9. WPBC is a *smoke, drug & alcohol free facility*, both inside the building and anywhere on our church property.
10. An *appropriate time to decorate* is to be scheduled with the secretary. Adhesive tape or nails/tacks may **not** be used. Pew bows can only be fastened with elastic/ribbon or something that will not damage the pew. No real/fake flower petals are to be used for decorating. Please ensure that **all decorations are removed immediately following the service**.
11. Two church candelabra (with candles) for a fee of **\$35.00**. The caretaker will put up and take down the candelabra. **No scented candles are allowed in the church**.
12. **NO confetti, rice or real/fake flower petals** are to be thrown anywhere in the church or outside on our property.
13. The church will be available **one hour prior to the wedding ceremony and for 30 minutes following the ceremony**. Rooms will be provided for the bridal party and groomsmen.
14. A draft version of the Order of Service and all multimedia sources are required by the church at **least one week prior to the wedding**. Audio/visual requirements must be identified at **least 4 weeks prior to the wedding**, using the 'A/V Request Form'.
15. If the wedding is cancelled within 72 hours of the specified date, all fees will be refunded.

OUR POSITION ON MARRIAGE

Westhill Park Baptist Church has adopted the position "**Marriage: A Statement Affirming a Christian View**", put forth and approved by the Canadian Baptists 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:

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.