

## Why We Do Weddings

At Leaside United Church, we believe in marriage. We believe that marriage is a gift of God to the human race. Marriage is a lifelong “calling” that deserves careful thought and preparation by those getting married, and the constant support of the community around them. Jesus endorsed this view of marriage when he quoted the words of Genesis saying, “A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh” (Mt. 19). He put his personal stamp of approval on making marriage something to celebrate when he provided wine for a wedding he was attending (Jn. 2). So when we at Leaside United Church do our best to help you celebrate your wedding, we do so as part of our faith.

## The Kinds Of Weddings We Do

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding. We know there’s a lot to think about, so we’ve set out a few things here to make planning your big day easier. Hosting weddings is part of our ministry to the community, by which we celebrate our gratitude to God for the gift of marriage. Since our sanctuary is a place of Christian worship, our weddings at Leaside United Church are Christian weddings or inter-faith weddings where one of the intended is a Christian. Same-sex weddings are welcomed at Leaside United Church under these same guidelines. However, we understand that people of all religious and non-religious backgrounds share in the joy of marriage, and so our ministers are happy to perform other weddings elsewhere on request.

## How To Get Started

If you would like to arrange your wedding at Leaside United Church, call Mary Ann, the Church Administrator in the Office to discuss your preferred date and time for the ceremony. Mary Ann will make sure that the sanctuary is free, and ask you for a small deposit (see below). Speak to Rev. John Smith to make sure that he is free. Other clergy are welcome to assist, under the direction of John. Sit down with John to discuss your wedding plans. When your wedding day comes, you’ll be glad that the minister knows you and that you know the minister. Review wedding ceremony options in discussion with John until you have a workable plan, and set a date and time for the rehearsal. Contact our Music Director, Sharon Beckstead, to arrange an appointment to discuss the music for your wedding.

## Marriage Preparation

All couples being married at Leaside United Church are expected to participate in a marriage preparation course. We recognize marriage preparation done with MarriagePrep ([www.marriageprep.com](http://www.marriageprep.com)), Joy of Marriage ([www.joyofmarriage.ca](http://www.joyofmarriage.ca)), Queen of the Apostles Renewal Centre ([www.qoa.ca](http://www.qoa.ca)) and other bona fide providers.

## Music For Your Wedding

The right music can make all the difference to a wedding ceremony. Our Music Director Sharon Beckstead is highly skilled at finding the right music for your wedding, and is an accomplished performer on the pipe organ and piano. Sharon will be happy to make an appointment with you to discuss musical selections, and discuss rates for the participation of soloists or other musicians if desired.

## Church Decorations, Etc.

We have elegant stands for flowers, candelabra for the altar if desired, and a well-kept, traditional, stained glass atmosphere to make your wedding a visual delight. Pew markers fastened by plastic hangers, ribbons, or elastics are welcome (but please, no nails, tacks, or sticky tape). If you are bringing flowers, you may take them with you or leave them for the enjoyment of others. At special times of year there may already be substantial decorations in the sanctuary—just ask. Bridal runners and silk flower petals are quite alright inside, and bubbles and bird seed are welcomed outside. Photographs and video taping is welcome during the service. John will be happy to have a word with your designated photographer so he or she can get the best photos possible.

## License & Fees

An all-inclusive fee of \$1,500.00 covers the use of the Sanctuary for rehearsal and wedding, the Minister, the Music Director, and the Wedding Coordinator. A \$250.00 deposit is required to reserve the Sanctuary for your wedding, with \$200.00 returned if you notify us of a change in plans at least ninety days in advance. We have done everything we can to keep our fees low and our doors open to our community to share your joy.

## In The End

The staff at Leaside United Church wishes to help you as much as possible with your wedding arrangements. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you might have. And may God bless you on the adventure of a lifetime!