



First Met  
United Church

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Wedding Brochure



# Your wedding: one of Life's most foremost celebrations

Congratulations! We would like to celebrate with you on this special occasion. We welcome couples who seek God's blessing on their commitment in a spiritual wedding ceremony here at First Metropolitan United Church. You do not need to be members of the Church.

Our beautiful sanctuary and chapel are also available to couples planning a civil wedding ceremony, presided over by a marriage commissioner.



We celebrate weddings for couples of all sexual orientations, gender identities and physical abilities who are in committed relationships. Inter-denominational and inter-faith weddings in which someone from another faith community may share in officiating are also welcome.



# The Ceremony

While there are some portions of the ceremony that are required for legal reasons, you have considerable flexibility to choose wedding vows, music, readings and prayers that reflect your special love and commitment to one another. You will have an initial meeting with a minister to plan a ceremony of great joy and deep meaning to you. Please do not hesitate to discuss with the minister any matters, not only in connection with your wedding, but also in terms of your relationship to one another and preparation for marriage.



Our Director of Music Ministry can suggest suitable music for the processional, at the signing of the register and the recessional, and can provide a wonderful range of selections for the organ and/or grand piano. If you wish to have a soloist or an outside musician, this may be discussed with the Director of Music Ministry.

# Our Facilities

First Metropolitan has a beautiful historic sanctuary offering a cathedral atmosphere for your wedding. The sanctuary seats up to 250 on the main floor and an additional 350 in the balconies. It is richly adorned with comfortable chairs, a central aisle, carved wooden pews, a hand-carved oak chancel and is decorated in soft tones of burgundy, sage and heather blue. Expansive stained glass windows provide natural lighting. The front is spacious with an open wooden cross.



The Heritage Room just off the main entrance to the church is available for last minute checks to appearance and apparel. When the service is over, our large wooden front doors offer excellent photo opportunities when the wedding party leaves the building.

For smaller and less formal weddings, our intimate chapel seating up to 60 persons is available.



All couples must supply a copy of their British Columbia marriage licence, valid for up to 90 days, at least one week prior to the ceremony. Details of how and where to apply for the licence are available on the Government of British Columbia websiteL <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life-events/marriage/marriage-licences>. Both parties to the marriage must be present in person along with the officiant and two witnesses. All members of the wedding party cannot be under the influence of alcohol or other substances at the time of the ceremony. Couples will receive a marriage certificate by mail once the marriage has been registered. On average, you can expect to receive your marriage certificate three weeks after the wedding takes place.

# Photography and Livestreaming

Photographs may be taken during the processional, the signing of the register and the recessional. Videotaping is permitted from a fixed position in the Sanctuary to be arranged before the ceremony.



Livestreaming of your ceremony is available to share this special occasion with friends and family around the world who are unable to attend. We have experienced technicians on hand to capture your day as you would like it using our two permanently mounted cameras. The wedding service is archived on our First Metropolitan United Church YouTube channel and is available for viewing for a duration of your choice. You may also purchase video recordings of the ceremony as a keepsake or to share with loved ones.

# Rehearsals and Decorating

A rehearsal for a wedding is recommended, unless it is a small private service. Ideally, all persons taking part in the ceremony should be present at the rehearsal.



The Sanctuary or Chapel may be decorated either at the time of the rehearsal or prior to the ceremony depending on the arrangements made with the office. Please note that no confetti, bird seed, rice, or flower petals may be strewed inside or outside of the building.

# Receptions

The Doreene McLeod Rm and Fellowship Hall are available for receptions. The Doreene McLeod Room is located conveniently close to both the sanctuary and chapel. It has a small service kitchenette attached, suitable for preparing tea and coffee and serving simple refreshments. It is suitable for small receptions of up to 50 people. The Fellowship Hall has a fully-equipped commercial kitchen and can seat up to 300 people for a meal. It also has a stage and sound system and we can bring in a projector and screen.



# Reserving the church

The date and time of your wedding and rehearsal may be reserved at the time you meet with the church office to book the event. A deposit is required at that time and is refundable up to 14 days prior to the ceremony date. It is advisable to book the ceremony as soon as you have selected your wedding date.





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