



So you want to get married? Congratulations! And if you choose to get married in a church rather than at a Palais de Justice, we - the congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church - think you are making a wise and inspired choice. It indicates that you would welcome God's presence when you make your wedding vows and God's blessing on your new life together. As a Christian community, we are delighted that you would seek God's nearness during the momentous time of your wedding. If you wish to get married at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, our minister leads the worship service and is the 'Agent of the State' to ensure your marriage is legal.

If a couple has no connection with St. Andrew's and is actively involved in another Christian community, it may be possible for them to celebrate their wedding at St. Andrew's. Under these exceptional circumstances, a request for renting the sanctuary will be discussed by the session (leadership team) for consideration. If the session is satisfied with the Christian character of the wedding service, the couple may be given permission to rent the worship space. In this case, St. Andrew's is not responsible for the legality of the wedding.

For all weddings, a 'wedding facilitator' is appointed to help with logistics.

### **Preparing for a St. Andrew's wedding**

A couple wishing to be married at St. Andrew's must arrange for an interview with the minister. Keep in mind that a wedding service in a Presbyterian Church is for a good part like any worship service - which means that our focus is firmly on God! After speaking with the couple, the minister will decide whether to move forward with the request or not. If the couple (or one of the couple) are faithful members of the congregation, it will be a great pleasure for the minister to bring the request to the session (leadership team) of the congregation. The members of the session will undoubtedly give the request their joyful approval.

If neither of the couple wishing to be married is in regular worship attendance at St. Andrew's, both the minister and the session may wish to understand the couple's reasons as to why they would like to get married in a church. It is hoped that a church wedding will lead to a faithful involvement with a Christian community.

Couples who are not in regular attendance at St. Andrew's will be asked to attend at least one regular Sunday morning worship service so as to become familiar with the minister's worship style and the lay-out of the sanctuary. At the same time, the congregation will be pleased to become acquainted with the couple. In either case, should both the minister and the session approve to have the wedding take place at St. Andrew's, the minister may have a series of meetings with the couple at which time convictions about Christian marriage will be explored. At one of these meetings, the couple need to present birth certificates as well as a statement of current civil status and, if applicable, a copy of divorce papers. The couple may also be asked to complete a marriage preparation tool. If so, the minister, possibly assisted by one or two of the congregation's elders, will discuss the results of the marriage preparation exercise.

### **General information**

#### The Wedding Service

As a wedding service is a regular worship service, the minister will make the final decisions on the ultimate format of the service while taking into account any special requests of the couple being married. All in attendance will be asked to turn off electronic devices (e.g. cell phones, cameras etc.) during the service.

#### Rehearsal

The minister may arrange for a rehearsal prior to the wedding. All members of the wedding party are expected to attend the rehearsal. The church organist/director of music does not necessarily attend the rehearsal.

#### Photography

In order to preserve the sanctity of the worship service, the use of cameras on the lower level of the sanctuary is not allowed during the wedding ceremony. However, it is possible to record the wedding service from the balcony in a non intrusive manner, (without flashes or camera lighting). In addition, photographers, as well as family members and invitees, are welcome to come forward after the service to photograph the wedded couple and the wedding party. The same rules apply to a video recording of the service.

#### Music

Music for St. Andrew's weddings is under the direction of the St. Andrew's director of music. Please note that there are additional fees if rehearsals are required (e.g. rehearsals with a soloist).

#### Decorating

Arrangements (scheduling etc.) for decorating the sanctuary are to be made with the wedding facilitator.

#### Confetti

All types of confetti, rice, rose petals, cheerios etc. are prohibited in, on or around the church property. Please advise your guests of this restriction.

#### Fees

Please consult the fee schedule. The wedding facilitator will provide an itemization of the cost and method of payment.

# St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



## Wedding Policy 2017-2018

**Contact information**

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
 496 Birch Avenue  
 St-Lambert  
 Québec, J4P 2M8  
 450-671-1862  
[standrews@standrews-stlambert.ca](mailto:standrews@standrews-stlambert.ca)

Minister: the Rev. Dr. D. Barry Mack  
[bmack@standrews-stlambert.ca](mailto:bmack@standrews-stlambert.ca)

Director of Music: Mr. Changhee Lee

Wedding Fees		
	Saint Andrew's wedding	Sanctuary rental
Use of Sanctuary	\$300	\$300
Wedding facilitator fee for rehearsal	N/A	\$50
Wedding facilitator fee for wedding	N/A	\$50
Administrative fees	\$50	N/A
St. Andrew's Director of Music	\$150	\$150 if applicable or if organ is used
St. Andrew's Minister	Discretionary donation	N/A

Please note, there may be additional fees if the Church Hall is to be used for a reception