

Cochrane Street United Church Wedding Information

Congratulations on your decision to get married. We know this is an important step to starting your life together. Please take time to read through this document and if you have any questions, contact us if you have any questions.

Reserving the Date

One of the first steps in wedding planning is to reserve the date. In order to book your wedding at Cochrane Street United Church, you need to complete the marriage application form and submit it to the office. A \$200.00 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve the date. The rehearsal is generally held 1 or 2 days prior to the date of the ceremony and is booked along with your wedding ceremony. There are no Friday night rehearsals.

Equal Marriage

Equal Marriage was enacted into law in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2004. Cochrane Street United Church welcomes all couples who wish to be married.

Public Health Measure and Guidance

Cochrane Street United Church adheres to all public health measures and guidance from the Department of Health and from the The United Church of Canada.

Invited Clergy

You may wish to have another minister or clergy person that has had a special influence in your life participate or perform the wedding ceremony. This needs to be approved by the church council. Please send a letter to the Church outlining the date of your wedding; the reason you are requesting this minister; and a letter from the clergy you wish to invite requesting permission for to her/him to take part in or to perform the ceremony. This documentation will be forwarded to the Church Council for approval. The fee for clergy from Cochrane Street is included in the Wedding Fees. The fee for the invited clergy is the responsibility of the couple and must be negotiated with that clergy person.

Marriage License

All persons wishing to be married in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador must have a valid marriage license issued by the Government of NL. There are several issuers in the St. John's and Mount Pearl area. The marriage licenses are only valid 30 days from the date of issue. The marriage license is required at least 5 days in advance of the marriage ceremony.

Consultation with the Minister

The Minister meets with the couple at least once, prior to the wedding. This will give all parties

the opportunity to get to know each other and to plan the marriage ceremony. The meeting will last approximately one hour.

Minister's Right to Refuse to Marry

The minister reserves the right to refuse to marry any couple for reasons of professional ethics, serious incompatibility of the couple, or failure of the couple to agree to the guidelines established by Cochrane Street United Church. The law also requires that the officiating ministers refuse to marry a couple when there is suspicion of intoxication by way of alcohol and/or drugs.

Church Music

Music is an integral component at marriage ceremonies. Our Director of Music is available to discuss the music for your wedding ceremony. The fees for our music director are included in our wedding fees. Other musicians such as a String Quartet, harpist, vocal soloists, etc., are permitted. The fees for these musicians are the responsibility of the couple. If you wish to use another organist for your ceremony, that person must be approved by the Director of Music and the fees for these additional musicians are your responsibility. Soloists/singers who require accompaniment from our Director of Music will be required to pay \$25.00 plus HST for every part of the half hour for the rehearsal. Our Director of Music is an accomplished vocalist and is available to sing at your ceremony. An additional charge of \$50.00 plus HST applies.

The lyrics of all "songs" to be performed or played during the ceremony must be submitted to the minister prior to your first meeting

Photography and Videos

Photographs and videos may be taken during the ceremony. We ask that the photography be respectful of the environment. Photographers/Videographers are asked to speak to the Minister prior to the ceremony to review guidelines for photographs taken during the wedding service.

Decorations at the Church

The couple is welcome to decorate the church pews with flowers or pew ribbons or have a wedding decorator come to the church to do so. The decorator must make an appointment or come to the church during regular business hours. If there are two weddings on the same day, the second wedding must make arrangements with the church caretaker to book a time for decorating the church in between the two ceremonies.

Each couple must make arrangement to have the decorations taken out of the church directly after the ceremony. The wood surfaces of the pews, altar and rails are made of oak that is 100 years old and requires delicate treatment. For this reason, please do not use tape or pins on the oak or plastered walls. We request that you tie your pew markers with ribbons and loop them over the ends of each pew. Open flame is not permitted in the sanctuary unless it is on the table at the altar.

Tossing of rice, seed, confetti and petals or blowing of bubbles following the ceremony is an age-old tradition at weddings. Unfortunately, it is messy and at times, dangerous to your guests and the public. Please refrain from these traditions on the stairs outside or anywhere in the sanctuary. If you wish to have flower petals real or artificial scattered down the aisle during the processional, an additional charge of \$100.00 will apply to the wedding fees for clean-up following the ceremony by the church custodian.

Livestreaming

We have the ability to livestream from the church through our YouTube Channel. This is an optional and there is an additional fee of \$150.00 for this service.

Wedding Program

The couple is responsible for purchasing and producing the bulletins for use at their marriage ceremony. Blank wedding bulletins can be purchased at the United Church Bookstore, 320 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's.

Wedding Fees

Fees are to be paid at the church office at least 5 days before the date of the wedding ceremony. Fees are to be issued individually as outlined. Cash or individually issued cheques are preferred. We accept payment by credit card. All credit card transaction are subject to a 5% processing fee. All fees are subject to change.

Standard wedding:

The cost for a standard wedding is \$750.00 which includes:

- Minister
- Director of Music
- Cochrane Street Administration and Custodian.

All payments must be received by the office no later than one month prior to the wedding and once paid will be non-refundable. If fees are not received on time, we reserve the right to cancel the ceremony and there will be a \$25 late fee.

Optional Extras

Fee for Invited Clergy	Responsibility of the couple to ensure payment
Rehearsal with soloist	\$25.00 for each part of 30 minutes + HST (\$28.75)
Music Director Solo	\$50.00 + HST (\$57.50)
Livestreaming	\$150.00
Flower Petal Clean up	\$100.00
Other Soloists	Fee negotiated with soloists
Other Musicians	Fee negotiated with musicians