

Congratulations on the announcement of your wedding! We are delighted when couples commit themselves to following God's plan for their lives, and when that plan includes the decision to establish a Christian home. Your MET leadership is available to serve you and help you prepare for a meaningful, God-honouring celebration. This document is intended to give you some information that you need to take into consideration as you proceed with your plans.

Pastoral Oversight

Every wedding conducted at The MET must be with the involvement of one of The MET pastors or, in the case where another minister will be officiating, one of The MET pastors must be in a supervisory role. A guest minister must be cleared by the supervising pastor, and must have valid credentials to perform marriages in Ontario.

Following are the steps you need to take:

Step 1 – Read this document and complete the **Marriage Application** form (click on the link at the bottom of page 4 below). Upon submission of the application, you will be contacted by Pastor Randy Jost who oversees our wedding ministry. If the church is the venue of choice for your wedding, the booking will be tentatively made depending on availability (this booking will be held for 60 days pending confirmation).

Step 2 - Upon receipt of the application, an initial interview will be arranged with the officiating pastor at which time the assessment of marriageability will be made. Once a MET pastor has confirmed this, your wedding date will be confirmed on the church calendar once you have completed and submitted the **Facility Use Agreement** that will be sent to you. If you are intending to have your wedding reception at the church, you will need to indicate this in the agreement.

Step 3 – Your attendance at **Marriage Preparation** classes is required. Every couple requesting a MET pastor to marry them must complete the 6 week Marriage Preparation Course that is offered twice per year at The MET, in the fall and early spring. In addition to the 6 week class, the couple will meet with the officiating pastor privately for marriage ceremony planning and to discuss the results of the *Prepare/Enrich* online profile results.

Note: Counseling by a non-MET pastor may be arranged, subject to clearance by the supervising MET pastor. In situations where the Marriage Preparation Course cannot be attended, provision for private sessions with the officiating pastor must be made.

Facility and Personnel Requirements

There is no rental fee for the use of the church Sanctuary or alternate room where the wedding is to take place, but fees associated with custodial and technical support will apply (see below). Charges may also apply for other rooms that are requested, including the Fellowship Centre, Foyer or Fireside Room.

All expenses will be invoiced to you after the wedding and are payable to the Metropolitan Bible Church. The minister's honorarium should be given directly and made payable to him.

- **Custodian:** The custodian will prepare the Sanctuary (excluding any decorating) for the wedding rehearsal and wedding, will be at the church to unlock doors for the wedding; will clean up used areas after the wedding (excluding dismantling of decorations).
Fee: \$30.00 / hour (minimum 3 hours)
- **Sound Technician:** A sound technician will need to be booked for both the rehearsal and the wedding. If projection is required for your wedding, an additional technician will be hired at the same rate. These technicians will be booked by MET staff.
Fee: \$30.00 / hour / technician (minimum 3 hours)
- **Organist, Pianist, Soloist, Band:** If you arrange for these on your own, you can express your appreciation in an appropriate manner of your choosing. However if desired, the Pastor can try to hire a musician from The MET. You also have the option of providing recorded music for your wedding (CD or memory stick).
Suggested Honorarium: Pianist, organist or soloist: \$100.00 per person payable directly to musician(s).
- **Minister:** The officiating pastor plays a key part in your wedding plans and preparations. He is involved in your Marriage Preparation sessions, and he plans and facilitates your wedding rehearsal, officiates at the wedding and often is there to celebrate with you at the reception. Though no honorarium amount is specified, we suggest that you provide an honorarium directly to the minister that reflects your appreciation for his ministry to you.
- **Foyer:** The foyer can be used for receiving lines after the wedding, but comes under the rental policy if used as a reception area with food/beverage.
- **Rehearsal Dinners:** Use of the Fireside Room for a Rehearsal Dinner is free of rental charge, although Kitchen & Custodial fees may apply.
- **Receptions:** Facility costs for a reception will apply. If having the reception at The MET use of one of our approved caterers will be required.*
Clarmell Farms (Grace or Christine) - clarmelfarms@outlook.com / 613-826-2959
Val Zimmerman - 613-838-2041
Waterfall Catering - dwaterfall@aol.com / www.ottawacatering.net/index.html
**Use of any other caterer will require the hiring of a MET kitchen coordinator*

Decorations

- All decorating is the responsibility of the couple.
- The church does not provide decorations for use.
- Existing platform decorations **must not be moved or removed** without permission by the Facility Manager.
- Candles are prohibited, except for the Unity Candles often used in the ceremony. These must be drip-less with extra precautions taken to ensure no wax drips on the carpet. Please inform your officiating pastor of your intentions along this line.
- You are responsible for having all decorations removed immediately following the ceremony (Additional fees may be charged for excessive clean up).

May you experience God's richest blessing on your wedding, and on the life you share together throughout your marriage. If you have any further questions or requirements, please discuss them with the officiating pastor.

THE MET'S POSITION ON MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

MARRIAGE

Scripture defines marriage as a covenant between one man* and one woman* that should not be broken (Matthew 19:4-6). It is intended to be a relationship that continues until one of the partners dies (Romans 7:2-3). However, though it should not be broken, some choose to break it. Marriage by a believer is to be with a partner who is also a believer (2 Corinthians 6:14). Since marriage is a covenant, it involves certain rights and obligations. The Scripture sets out those that God requires: the husband undertakes to sacrificially love his wife; the wife undertakes to respectfully submit to her husband (Ephesians 5:21-33). The relationship between husband and wife is intended to be reflective of the relationship between Christ and the Church. Each undertakes to remain faithful to the other, and to reserve sexual intimacy as expressions of love between each other exclusively. Neither has a right to leave the marriage relationship, that is, to desert the other. The MET is committed to teach, encourage and counsel couples and individuals either contemplating marriage or already in marriage relationships, in order to establish or re-establish a joyful Christian marriage partnership.

*Biologically at birth

DIVORCE

According to the prevailing laws of the land, the parties may seek a divorce, and many do, with various motives. Scripture, however, sets a higher expectation for believers, encouraging husbands and wives to make every effort toward resolution and reconciliation, and the Lord promises to supply sufficient grace even in seemingly impossible circumstances; the husband and wife can each draw on that grace to repent and to forgive, and to ask God to restore their relationship. The MET stands ready to help couples in difficulty move toward restoration. There are two Scripture references that appear to permit divorce under certain conditions. The first is Matthew 19:9, from which a deduction can be made that divorce can be initiated by one party in the case of sexual immorality by the other. Another is 1 Corinthians 7:12-15 which speaks to the abandonment of a believing spouse by an unbelieving spouse, indicating a finality which frees the believer from the marriage allowing for divorce.

REMARRIAGE

Scripture provides some guidance on the issue of remarriage. Clearly, a person is free to remarry on the death of their spouse (Romans 7:1-3). Matthew 5:31-32, together with the Matthew 19 passage referenced above seems to allow for the remarriage of an innocent party when their spouse has been unfaithful and divorce results, but also states that outside of this exception remarriage after divorce is adultery. Similarly, these words of Jesus on remarriage after divorce are echoed in Luke 16:18. Following on from Christ's teaching on the subject, Paul writes in the 1 Corinthians 7 passage regarding the leaving of a non-believing partner, and provides a possibility for remarriage in this case if divorce is pursued. Although remarriage is often regarded in our culture as the natural follow-on to divorce, remaining single after divorce is not only commended in Scripture (1 Corinthians 7:8, 39-40), but can be the God honouring and obedient choice in some circumstances and ought not to be dismissed without prayerful consideration and pastoral guidance.

IMPACT ON MINISTRY

Being divorced, or divorced and remarried, does not preclude fruitful Christian service, nor does it exclude believers from certain positions in and of itself. However, the service opportunities offered to any believers, divorced or otherwise, by church leadership might be sometimes restricted, this after thoughtful and prayerful consideration of the circumstances and the readiness of individuals to assume or re-assume ministry responsibilities; such

decisions must not be taken lightly or unilaterally, and should be accompanied by gracious conversations by a Staff Team with the parties, to promote understanding and acceptance. Decisions that restrict service could be re-visited after a suitable period of time.

A. Those who our Pastors will consider marrying:

Note: Pastors are given freedom to marry couples based on their understanding of scripture, which may be somewhat different between ministers but always within the boundaries of our Position statement.

1. A Christian man or woman who has never been married.
2. A Christian man or woman who has been widowed.
3. A Christian man or woman who has been divorced on the grounds of sexual immorality, committed by the other spouse.
4. A Christian man or woman who has been abandoned by an unbelieving spouse, and the abandoning spouse initiated and obtained a divorce.
5. A Christian man or woman who was divorced prior to becoming a believer.

B. Our Pastors will not allow the marriage of:

1. A Christian man or woman who is engaged to a non-believing fiancé(e).
2. A Christian couple who, in the opinion of the pastor(s), is not adequately prepared for marriage.

C. Special considerations:

1. It is the practice of our church to marry Christian couples. Non-believing couples may be considered for marriage at The MET at the discretion and availability of a pastor.
2. Due to the number of weddings at The MET each year, we are only able to offer our facility as a wedding venue for couples where one or both are in regular attendance at The MET.
3. All special requests will be considered with final determination to be made by the officiating pastor.

(Click this link to access [the Application to be Married at The MET Form](#))