

Wedding Information Package



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF TORONTO

115 Simpson Avenue, Toronto, ON M4K 1K9

www.mcctoronto.com

416-406-6228

About Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto

Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto
is a joyful, spiritual community of gay-positive people
committed to being and inclusive, affirming, caring church

Our Core Values

Spirituality, Faith, Diversity, Leadership, Advocacy
Caring, Compassion, Courage, Joy, Celebration

Our Bedrock Belief

We believe in a loving and good God, known by many name.
God's love is offered to everyone unconditionally.
There are many paths to God, one of them is Christianity.
God is everywhere, with us always, gives us strength, and works through us.
Every person is created in the image of God, and is inherently good.
All life is a gift from God, and each life has a purpose.
Jesus is our teacher, example, saviour and friend.
We believe in the power and effectiveness of prayer.
And we believe in eternal life.

A Little History...

- ◆ Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto (MCC Toronto) was established on July 17, 1973.
- ◆ Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, Rev. Deana Dudley, and Rev. Kevin Downer are the current pastors of MCC Toronto.
- ◆ MCC Toronto averages nearly 700 people attending our three worship services every Sunday.
- ◆ MCC Toronto has the largest Christmas Eve service in Ontario, if not Canada, attracting almost 2,550 people to Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall for Christmas Eve each year.
- ◆ MCC Toronto members volunteer over 47,000 hours of work each year for our programs and services and tens of thousands more hours for over 50 other community agencies and groups.
- ◆ Each year, through the Bayview Hospice, MCC Toronto's volunteers support more than 90 clients and provides over 14,000 hours of home hospice care to people with life threatening illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, Cancer multiple Sclerosis and ALS.
- ◆ For people facing life's challenges, MCC Toronto offers a wide range of programs and support groups. Groups have included: Bereavement Support, Caring for Aging Parents, Relationship Break-up Support, Blue Christmas, Home and Hospital Visitation, TeleCARE, and the Intercessory Prayer Group.
- ◆ MCC Toronto has offered seminars and workshops on spiritual and personal growth including Men's Coming Out, Women's Coming Out, Self-esteem, Men's & Women's Boundaries, Estate Planning, Legal issues for Lesbian & Gay people, Health Issues, and Leadership Development, to name a few.
- ◆ MCC Toronto is a diverse congregation. A recent survey revealed that:
 - over 30 ethnic backgrounds are represented
 - over 20 countries were reported as place of birth
 - our members represent more than 20 different languages
 - our Sunday service is webcast to over 30 countries

For more information, please visit www.mcctoronto.com



Greetings!

Thank you for inquiring about information with regards to the possibility of having your wedding with Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto (MCC Toronto).

This packet contains information along with forms that will need to be completed should you choose to engage our clergy, staff and facilities. We would ask that you contact the Wedding Coordinator who will provide you with the information you need to begin the arrangements for your special day. It is important that we address any questions or requests regarding your ceremony prior to you finalizing arrangements outside the church (such as reception) to insure all plans are in sync.

MCC Toronto has certified clergy to perform weddings. The clergy are ordained by the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches — a worldwide denomination — and are authorized to officiate at weddings either at the church or offsite locations.

Although providing services for marriage is very important to us, it is a good idea to plan you wedding well in advance to ensure the clergy and facilities are available. The clergy and staff of MCC Toronto are committed to helping you make your special day a joyful and memorable one.

Congratulations on you decision to have a wedding ceremony. Let us be among the first to warmly wish you joy as you take this step in the adventure of you love and commitment to each other.

Blessings,

Bill Estey

Wedding Coordinator

(416) 406-6228 ext. 170

weddings@mcctoronto.com

Weddings, Holy Unions and Blessing of Relationships

Choices and Obligations

In a time when partnerships are challenged by many contradicting forces, we feel the need to better the likelihood of you union being a successful one. Because of that, we have established some minimum requirements that need to be fulfilled in advance of MCC Toronto conducting your Wedding, Holy Union or Blessing of Relationship Ceremony. Please understand that these obligations are predicated on the desire to be of help. We require them as a way to demonstrate the seriousness with which we enter into the agreement to officiate at you service. The following options may be available to you:

A) Wedding by Marriage License

Weddings may take place by securing a Marriage License from the Province of Ontario, obtained through City Hall. It is the responsibility of City Hall to ensure that the couple meets the legal requirements to be married.

Additional conditions are as follows:

1. Both parties must be at least 18 years of age
2. The couple must contact our Wedding Coordinator to book a date and review the options available for their ceremony

B) Wedding by Publication Bans

Publication of Banns refers to the tradition of publicly announcing a couple's intent to marry, within the context of Sunday Worship, for three weeks prior to the date of the wedding. For a wedding by Publication of Banns, the following conditions must be met:

1. Both couples must be at least 18 years of age
2. Couples must share no blood relation
3. Neither party can have been previously married (*either married, divorced or dissolved*)
4. The couple must regularly attend the church ("*regular attendance*" is defined by an attendance of a minimum of one service per month over a period of six months)
5. The couple must contact our Wedding Coordinator to book a date and reviews the options available for their ceremony

C) Holy Union

Holy Unions are similar to weddings in that the ceremony is very similar (*with a few necessary changes*) and while it is every bit as symbolic and meaningful as a wedding, it has no legal significance. The requirements are:

1. Both parties must be at least 18 years of age
2. The couple must contact our Wedding Coordinator to book a date and the review the options available for their ceremony
3. If either party has been previously married, that union must have ended by an act of dissolution of divorce (*documentation required*)

D) Blessing of Relationship

If a couple does not meet the requirements listed above, and/or wishes to have their relationship blessed, they may choose to have a Blessing of Relationship. This consists of the couple meeting with clergy who will pray with the couple requesting God's blessing of the relationship. This is done privately, in the Pastor's Study or the Chapel. No certificate is provided. To make arrangements, please contact the Pastor's office at 416-406-6228 ext. 107.

Music

Music is one of the most powerful tools in making the Wedding/Holy Union memorable and meaningful for you and your guests. Please discuss your requirements with the Wedding Coordinator.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long in advance should I plan my Wedding?

Our suggestion is to begin planning at least 6 months to 1 year in advance. Many people are surprised to find that the date they were hoping to have their ceremony is not available. Clergy schedules are such that they may not be available due to other commitments, and frequently there is more than one Wedding in a day (*although they are spaced apart so that there is no overlap*).

It is not advisable to send invitations or book a reception hall before you have confirmed a date with the church and officiating clergy person.

How do we change our names?

You may do this by contacting the office of the Registrar General at 1-800-461-2156 or by visiting www.ccr.gov.on.ca

How is parking a MCC Toronto?

Parking around MCC Toronto is very challenging. MCC Toronto has no parking lot, and the street parking is limited and patrolled regularly. Please observe all signs carefully and park at your own risk. Parking exemptions are not provided by MCC Toronto but may be available through the City of Toronto Parking Authority. **We strongly suggest that you ask your guests to allow adequate time to arrive and find parking in the area.**

If we choose to use MCC Toronto's Social Hall for our reception, are smoking and alcohol allowed?

MCC Toronto is a smoke-free environment. Smoking is limited to designated outside areas only. Alcohol is permitted only in the Social Hall, upon obtaining a permit from LCBO. If you have any questions, contact our Facilities Manager, Brian Woodlock at 416-406-6228 ext. 179 or bwoodlock@mcctoronto.com.

FEES

(Revised March 2014)

WEDDINGS

Offsite Wedding: Home, Banquet Hall, Restuarant, Country Club, etc.
\$475 - \$575 + 13% HST + travel fee if applicable

Onsite (Sanctuary):

Small Wedding (1-10 guests)	\$475 - \$575 + 13% HST
Medium Wedding (up to 150 guests)	\$550 - \$650 + 13% HST
Large Wedding (over 150 guests)	Contact the Wedding Coordinator

Additional Charges:

Use of Sanctuary sound system

\$100.00 + 13% HST

Use of Webcasting system

Contact the Wedding Coordinator

A \$100.00 deposit is required upon confirmation for the wedding date.

The balance is required two weeks prior to the wedding date.

**Contact our Wedding Coordinator, Bill Estey
at 416-406-6228 ext. 170 or at BEstey@MCCToronto.com**

RECEPTIONS

Facility Rentals **Contact our Facilities Manager, Brian Woodlock
at 416-406-6228 ext. 179 or BWoodlock@MCCToronto.com**

- ◆ If you are using the church facilities for your reception, MCC Toronto will hire a Facilities Assistant to ensure security and take care of any unforeseen facilities-related issues. (Note! This is not a cleaning person.)
- ◆ You may use MCC Toronto's tables and chairs but if you'd like specific tables or chairs (i.e. round tables), they may be rented from an outside rental company.
- ◆ Caterers are welcome to set-up in the kitchen. Please note that food may be heated but not cooked.
- ◆ You are responsible for ensuring that the facility is clean and all rooms are returned to their original state. All trash is to be taken to the dumpster outside. Vacuuming and mopping must be done as needed. Most caterers will include this in their package, but please confirm this when you make arrangements. You will be billed an additional cleaning fee if the facility requires cleaning.

WEDDING REQUEST FORM

Date requested: _____ Time of Wedding: _____

Location of Wedding: _____

Select one: Marriage License _____ Banns _____ Holy Union _____

Parties to the Marriage:

A) Last Name: _____

First: _____ Middle: _____

First Name to be used in the Ceremony: _____

Gender: Male _____ Female _____

Citizenship: _____ Occupation: _____

Religious Denomination: _____

Have you been married before: [] YES [] NO

B) Last Name: _____

First: _____ Middle: _____

First Name to be used in the Ceremony: _____

Gender: Male _____ Female _____

Citizenship: _____ Occupation: _____

Religious Denomination: _____

Have you been married before: [] YES [] NO

Contact Information

Street address: _____

City or Town: _____ Prov: _____ Postal: _____ Country: _____

Telephone Number:

A) Res: _____ Bus: _____

e-mail: _____

B) Res: _____ Bus: _____

e-mail: _____

How long have you been together?: _____

Are you regularly involved in the life of MCC Toronto: _____

How did you hear about MCC Toronto: _____

Would you like to be added to the mailing list: [] Yes [] No

Signatures:

A) _____

B) _____