

Schedule for Your Wedding Day!

1. Ushers arrive 30 to 40 minutes prior to the ceremony. They are responsible for attaching pew bows, and seeing that flowers, candles, and any other details are in place.
2. The groom and his attendants arrive 15 minutes prior to the ceremony.
3. The bride and her attendants arrive five minutes prior to the ceremony.
(Same gender couples can decide on order of arrival)
4. Photos are allowed during the procession, recession, and signing of the register. An official photographer may work throughout, but must consult with the Minister and couple as to limitations. Stationary video cameras are allowed.
5. We request that there be no confetti or birdseed thrown, nor flower petals strewn on church property. Environmental concerns and time constraints between ceremonies require this.
6. Due to time limitations, we request that you do not have a receiving line at the church following your ceremony.
7. The church has two tall candelabra which are available for your use.
8. Listen for the church bell ringing when you walk down the aisle and into your married life!



Weddings at Hillhurst United Church



Hillhurst United is an ideal place to perform your wedding vows. Hillhurst is an Affirming Ministry. We welcome same gender couples to our congregation, and are pleased to perform same gender marriages. We are delighted to be part of this special aspect of your journey. Membership with us is not required. We are dedicated to helping make your wedding day exceptional. Please feel free to contact us anytime with questions, concerns, and ideas about your special day.

Hillhurst United Church
Minister: Rev. Dr. John Pentland
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The Service

Hillhurst uses a ceremony planner developed by the Minister.

When you confirm your wedding date, you will receive a copy of the planner and as a couple, you can choose the words, prayers, vows, and style of ceremony.

When you meet with the Minister, come prepared to discuss your preferences, and know that every effort will be made to ensure that your ceremony is meaningful and appropriate for you and your partner.

Music

The services of our church musician and exceptional pipe organ are part of the package we offer you at Hillhurst. You may choose to have a soloist, vocal or instrumental pieces of music, and/or hymns to be sung by the congregation.

Our organist will contact you about the music for your ceremony.

A vocal soloist is available on request for an additional fee. There may be an additional fee for musical requests that require rehearsal time.



View of our pipe organ (top left)

Marriage Preparation Seminar

Our Minister recommends that all couples take a marriage preparation course prior to their wedding. We provide a marriage preparation course here at Hillhurst for a fee of \$175 per couple.

The Calgary Presbytery of the United Church of Canada also provides seminars. Information on their courses is available on their website at: www.pastoralcareunited.ca.

Fees

Our fees include the Minister, Organist, Custodian, and a donation to the church. Fees should not be a hindrance to your wedding plans. If this is an issue, please speak to us.

Deposit, paid at the time of booking: **\$200**

(50% refundable for cancellations up to 2 months prior to the date)

Balance, due two weeks prior to wedding: **\$800**

Total: **\$1,000**

Parking

Parking for the wedding party will be reserved in front of the church. Additional parking is available behind the church; across the street in the St. John's School parking lot; and in a parkade one block east of the church on Kensington Crescent.

Cancellations

Your wedding will be cancelled if:

1. You do not confirm your wedding with a deposit.
2. You do not pay your wedding fees in full two weeks prior to the wedding date.
3. On your wedding day, the bride, groom, or the legal witnesses have been consuming alcohol.

Marriage License and Certificate

As a couple, apply at a registry agent for your marriage license. The license is valid for 90 days.

When you have it, we ask that you deliver it to the church office with your final fee payment.

Both the license and final payment must arrive a minimum of two weeks prior to the wedding date.

Your marriage license is required to be kept on file by the church office until the wedding date.

After the wedding, this license is sent to the Alberta branch of Vital Statistics. Approximately two weeks after your ceremony, you may return to the same registry agent to apply for a legal marriage certificate.



View of our sanctuary

The Rehearsal

The rehearsal is held the Thursday evening prior to your wedding, between 4 and 6pm. We reserve half an hour for the rehearsal, and as there may be other rehearsals scheduled, you are requested to be on time. In order to facilitate order and calm, we ask that only people in the wedding party, as well as ushers, attend the rehearsal. Do not worry if your whole wedding party cannot attend. As long as the wedding couple know their roles, we have found that the wedding goes very smoothly!

It is the job of the church staff to ensure that your ceremony unfolds as you have planned it.

We can seat from 5 to 240!

Our sanctuary is 100 years old and its architecture is awe inspiring. The beautiful stained glass windows, pipe organ, and rounded pews make for an intimate and beautiful space to exchange your vows.