

What is involved in Marriage Preparation?

1. Clergy Interviews

The clergy normally sees each couple a minimum of three times, the purpose of which is as follows:

- ✦ getting to know the couple and helping them integrate into parish life.
- ✦ explaining what **Christian** marriage involves.
- ✦ discussing family background, communication, expectations, as they relate to coming together in marriage.
- ✦ explanation of and exploration of the marriage service.
- ✦ consideration of legal requirements and obtaining information necessary for documentation.

2. Alpha Course

This is a ten week course in Christian basics. Each evening starts with a light supper, followed by a video presentation, then small group discussion of questions and issues arising from the talk.

3. Marriage Preparation Course

In addition, each couple attends a further Marriage Preparation course run by the wider church or other agencies within Winnipeg. These courses consist of a weekend event or a series of interview sessions.

What does it cost?

There is a \$100.00 fee for the Church itself. The couple may wish to give a thank-offering (suggested \$150.00) to the clergy which is used for professional purposes but this entirely optional.

Other fees involved in the wedding are:

- Caretaker \$100.00
(cheque to Armando Varas)
- Organist \$100.00 (wedding)
\$ 25.00 (rehearsal)

Fees are due at the wedding rehearsal and cheques made out to the recipients.

Couples wishing to use the Fellowship Hall for a reception need to inquire from the Parish Administrator, Adele Smith (489-3390) as to its availability. Certain restrictions apply. The cost of the Hall rental, use of the kitchen facilities and janitorial services is decided upon after discussion with the Administrator.

How do we begin?

Come to church one Sunday (7:50, 9:00 or 11:00 a.m.) and see one of the clergy afterwards, to make an appointment. There is no obligation on either part until all parties feel that marriage at St. Aidan's is the best step and then the preparation can begin!

St. Aidan's Anglican Church
274 Campbell Street
Winnipeg, MB R3N 1B5
Phone (204) 489-3390
Fax (204) 488-6564
e-mail: staidans@mts.net
www.staidanswinnipeg.ca



To know
Christ and to
make Him
known

Marriage at St. Aidan's





Congratulations!

In the midst of a society with increasing pressures in marriage and where many are choosing options other than marriage commitment as their pattern for living together, you are taking a courageous and commendable step. This brochure is an attempt to anticipate and answer questions you may have.

Who is eligible for marriage at St. Aidan's?

Parishioners or those wishing to become parishioners. If you just want to use the facilities of the building and minister with no intention of being involved in the Christian community here, then you should think of alternatives to a church wedding.

Exceptions include those out-of-town with prior connections to the parish, able to obtain preparation for Christian marriage in their home church.

Do I have to be a convinced believer and an Anglican?

Christian marriage is for Christian believers or those who want to step forward in this direction of faith. Marriage at St. Aidan's is for couples where at least one party is Anglican or where the couple

wishes to take positive steps towards becoming practising members of the Anglican Church. This requires taking the **Alpha** and **Beta** courses.

What if either or both of us have been divorced?

The Anglican Church treads the narrow path upholding the Biblical standards for permanence in marriage and having compassion for human failure and sin. As a result, remarriage where one or both parties have been married before is permitted upon application to and approval from the Diocesan Matrimonial Commission.

This application involves an extensive interview with the clergy person who will conduct the marriage and a filing of the results of the interview with the Commission, which in itself is anonymous. All submissions are strictly confidential. The process is to ensure that the negative implications of the former marriage have been worked through as much as possible and that the new marriage will be based upon a firm resolve and understanding.

The clergy person officiating must be satisfied that the foregoing requirements have been met and that he/she can proceed with a clear conscience and without unnecessary doubts as to the appropriateness of the remarriage taking place in the Church.

There is a charge of \$40.00 by the Commission for this procedure. This process can take up to three months, and the church is not allowed to set the date of the wedding until after the Commission has given its approval.

What if we are already living together?

Congratulations for seeking God's best by coming to make a life-long commitment in the marriage ceremony! Living together before marriage falls short of God's plan for us and (unknown to most people) brings elements of insecurity, false expectation and other negative psychological factors into the permanent relationship.

These are discussed in the preparatory interviews and the good news is that when we are open to God's best for us and repent where we have fallen short, there is healing and restoration and the hope of building a proper foundation for your life together.

Some couples have stopped living together until marriage on learning these things and others have chosen to remain together as the better course for them to take at that point.

Do we need a Marriage License?

In the Province of Manitoba, a Marriage License is required (\$70.00). Forms and information on locations of Marriage License Issuers can be obtained by calling (204) 945-3727 or by downloading information from the Internet.

How far ahead do we have to start making arrangements?

Four to five months gives the best minimum time of preparation; longer is even better. Situation for couples where one or both parties have been divorced is at least three months, as described above.