

wedding day. In the subsequent meeting(s) we discuss any items that have come up during their Marriage Preparation classes and work through the specifics of their wedding service.

An order of service is developed, including special music, their choice of vows, signing of the register and other pertinent items. The couple is asked to select a few verses of Scripture they have found special which will form the basis of the devotional thought for their wedding.

They also need to obtain a Marriage License at least two weeks before the wedding and bring it to the church. To obtain your Marriage License, locate the closest Vital Statistic office via the Internet at [www.vs.gov.bc.ca](http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca)

We are also happy to photocopy your wedding programs/bulletins if we have the complete information in good time. These bulletin covers may be purchased at most Christian Book Stores.

8. The rehearsal, a day or two before the wedding, provides a time for the wedding party, including parents and musicians, to walk through the wedding. Don't forget to add this to your scheduling when talking with our facilities coordinator. The rehearsal gives you an opportunity to make last minute adjustments and finalize the placement of your wedding party on the platform. This "walk through" also

helps give you peace of mind on your wedding day.

9. From time to time our Pastors are asked how much we should receive for doing a wedding. We have received from 0 to \$125 for doing a wedding. However, we do not 'charge a fee' we are glad to do your wedding as part of a ministry in this Church.

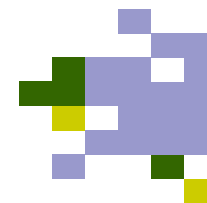
10. It is important for you to plan your wedding night accommodations well in advance and guarantee your room even if you plan to arrive before 6 pm. On some weekends when there are conventions in a community, un-guaranteed hotel space is often reassigned. More than one honeymoon has started off with a couple looking for a room in the middle of the night.

Also, be sure to take some time for a honeymoon, at least one week, preferably two. Those who plan to honeymoon later often don't, and miss out on an opportune time for bonding to take place in their new marriage.

Marriage is God's idea. It is not for all (1 Cor. 7:7,8) but when it occurs in the plan of God and with the blessing of God, marriage is good. It is not to be entered into hastily or without thought, prayer, and as much preparation as possible because in God's plan marriage is "until death do us part".



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## UNTIL DEATH DO US PART

Weddings are wonderful events in the life of our congregation. They provide us with an opportunity to wish the new couple God's blessing and a lifelong relationship full of meaning and usefulness. We meet extended families and enjoy some family history in the making.

As Pastors we also keenly feel the awesome responsibility of "tying the knot" in a world where knots come untied far too often. When we sign your marriage registration it becomes a binding legal document. While each of our Pastors have their own way of preparing you for your wedding day and performing the actual ceremony, our prayer for all of our couples is for their marriage to be "until death do us part". Anything less brings great sorrow to our hearts and to the wider body of Christ.

If marriage is somewhere on your horizon you may find the following helpful:





1. Give the Pastors and Church Office as much advance notice as you can so the scheduling of your wedding day will be as smooth as possible. Six months is increasingly the norm.

With the growing number of weddings taking place at Willingdon, it is important for you to talk with our Facilities Coordinator regarding room requirements for your special day. A contract must be filled out and deposit submitted to hold your date. Where catering is required an additional deposit will be needed. All food required in our building is supplied by our Food Services. Your rehearsal plans are also booked at this time.

Please discuss these matters carefully so all concerned are working on the "same page". Every effort is made to provide the space and services you require. Of course when 2 or 3 weddings are planned for the same day, it is important to all parties that detailed plans are clear. Take nothing for granted in making your arrangements. Don't be shy. Ask lots of questions so everything is clear to all. We are here to serve you and your families.

2. As Pastors, before agreeing to do your wedding, we want to talk with you and explore your life-pilgrimage and faith-pilgrimage. We usually ask some of the following questions: Have you personally made a commitment to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? How do your parents and/or family feel about your proposed marriage? How long have you known each other? How and where did you meet? Have you been married before? If so, what

were the circumstances around that marriage, its failure, or the loss of your spouse.

3. It is our conviction to not marry an unbeliever to a believer because of the words in II Corinthians 6:14 "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" We do not believe this verse prohibits the marrying of two unbelievers. One of the challenges in pastoral counseling is to explore the words and comments around spiritual commitment with a couple when it appears one person is not clear about their commitment to Christ or appear to be going through the motions of faith in order to marry.

4. Our Elders require all couples being married by Willingdon Church Pastors to take the Marriage Preparation Course. You require the recommendation of a Willingdon Church Pastor to enroll in the Marriage Preparation Course. Again it is important to plan well in advance, to avoid disappointment. A Marriage Preparation Brochure is available at the Information Desk for specific dates of the course.

These classes will raise additional questions you, and your spouse-to-be, need to discuss before your wedding day. Thorough preparation before the wedding leads to fewer surprises after the wedding, and stronger, happier marriages.

5. Where there has been a previous marriage ending in divorce on the part of one or both of the couple, they are asked to meet with two or three Elders to clarify their situation and possible further marriage at Willingdon. The Elders deal with these matters in a sensitive and caring way seeking to discern the Lord's Will in light of Scripture and each person's specific situation. The meeting can be arranged through a Pastor and must take place before the Marriage Preparation Class begins. It is

very helpful for anyone considering remarriage to obtain the church's policy paper entitled, Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage available at the Information Desk.

6. We always want to work redemptively with couples sharing the grace and truth of our Lord Jesus Christ around marriage. In some situations couples have already been living together. We have asked that these living arrangement be altered to avoid even a hint of sexual immorality (Eph. 5:2).

It is important for couples to stay out of bed until their wedding night. Pre-marital abstinence alleviates over commitment physically and emotionally before there is marriage. When couples get their minds together on the issues of life first, their bodies will work very well in marriage. Remember marriage IS the commitment, not sex. Note the words of Hebrews 13:4 "Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral".



A future husband has only the time before his wedding to clearly establish with his future wife his love for who she is and not for her body. Both need to realize bodies change over time due to accidents, disease or just aging. Obviously, after the wedding their bodies belong to each other for mutual love and fulfillment (See I Corinthians 7:4-5). Sexual abstinence before marriage is one of the most important investments you can make in your future marriage. It helps establish trust and intimacy at a very deep level.

7. In the initial meeting with the couple we seek to clarify their suitability for marriage and go over the procedures for preparing for their