



PRINSEP STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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GUIDELINES ON MARRYING IN PRINSEP STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

If you are planning to get married in our church, please observe the following guidelines:

- (1) Only couples who are both Christians, one of whom is a member of Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church, for a minimum of one year, can be married in the church.
- (2) **They must complete the “Marriage Preparation Class” at least 6 months before the wedding date.** Then they must formally write to the Session requesting permission to be married in the church. The Session meets on the third Wednesday of the odd-numbered months beginning January.
- (3) Couples planning to get married in the church and who have obtained the Session’s approval can then book the church facilities by completing the *Booking of PSPC Facilities* form which is available from the Church Office. Booking of the church facilities is on a first-come-first-served basis, though there may be more than one wedding in the church premises on the same day. **We do not encourage weddings on Sundays or Public Holidays.**
- (4) When your marriage date is approaching you will need to file a Notice of Marriage at the Registry of Marriage at least 30 days before the intended date of marriage. **Please do not register your marriage at the Registry Office, otherwise you cannot hold the wedding in the church. We do not have “marriage blessing” services in the church.** The final signing must take place in our church, signed by our Deputy Registrar.
- (5) Please ensure that the service is reverent because two people are exchanging their vows before God and in the faith community promising to keep faithful to each other for the rest of their lives. The emphasis will also be in the joyful celebration of God’s goodness, thanksgiving for the joining of two families together.
- (6) A rehearsal should be carried out prior to the actual wedding day. Please inform the church office about the date of the rehearsal as arranged together with the minister officiating at the wedding.
- (7) There is no necessity to invite any of the pastors or Church Office staff to the wedding celebration and/or dinner.
- (8) The P.A. system must be manned by any of the operators approved by the church. Please contact the Church Office to find out who the authorized personnel are. The organist must be from Prinsep.
- (9) Decoration of the church premises should be done as simply and quickly as possible, preferably on the morning of the wedding date itself, as the premises cannot be used by others after the decorations have been completed. All decorations, except the floral arrangement, must be removed after the wedding. There must be people appointed to ensure that the premises are cleaned and the furniture re-instated to the original position after the occasion as there will be no one around to prepare the premises for use the following morning. Someone should be appointed to be in charge of logistics and the person must liaise with the Church Manager about the use of the premises.
- (10) No confetti is allowed in the church premises at any time and no pets are allowed in the Sanctuary at any time.
- (11) Any catering must be held in the Fellowship Hall only. The caterer must completely clear off all the rubbish and left-overs from the church premises and not deposit anything in the church premises or in the rubbish point at the roadside. There is no garbage disposal on Sunday and the rubbish and left-overs would decompose and emit a foul smell. Furthermore there are stray animals in the neighbourhood and they will rummage through the garbage disposal bags, spilling the contents all over the place. The couple should stress to the caterer to abstain from such unhygienic practices.
- (12) A refundable deposit of \$200 will have to be placed with the church. This will be forfeited if the premises are not cleaned, the furniture not put back in order, the rubbish not removed, or for any other reason that may arise after the occasion.

- (13) Special permission must be obtained for the use of the kitchen, especially if cooking and preparation of food is to be carried out in the kitchen.
- (14) The other rules and regulations pertaining to the use of the church premises and facilities are indicated in the *Booking of PSPC Facilities* form.

A couple may wish to keep in mind a few things:

- (1) **Punctuality**
Tradition has it that a bride should not appear too keen to be married off and thus has to keep the groom waiting. Most people do not believe in that now. If you feel you must keep up this tradition then you should be at the most 10 minutes late. Punctuality honours God and shows consideration to your guests and the minister. We have an air-conditioned waiting room so that the bride need not be dependent on the vagaries of the traffic.
- (2) **The Dress Code**
The couple should dress modestly and appropriately to the occasion, showing due consideration for the guests.
- (3) **The Kiss**
The kiss in a wedding ceremony is only a symbolic one to demonstrate one's love and affection. It need not be a passionate one. The public demonstration of one's passion does not present a good witness to relatives and guests.
- (4) **Special Items**
Some of the couples may have friends who wish to play or sing a song during the wedding service. Traditionally this is done as a musical interlude while the couple are signing the marriage register, but of late these songs have been dedicated to the couple, and in order to captivate their full attention. It is now done after they have signed the register. Some couples may themselves wish to sing and this can be tastefully done. However, one should be wary that having too many song items in the wedding service may turn it into a 'mini-concert' and thus the main purpose of the wedding, which is the exchange of vows is lost. It may be more appropriate to have these song items during the reception or dinner. Couples with no musical inclinations need not feel obligated to have a special item.
- (5) **Photography**
Some churches totally disallow photography because flashing bulbs and glaring spotlights distract from the solemnity of the occasion and harass those conducting the service. Photography and videography is generally allowed as long as it is not intrusive and does not distract from the reverence of the ceremony. Remember that the important thing is the vows, not one's photo recollection of the wedding. If you must have a video of the wedding, it is suggested that you get a friend to take it for you. Amateur video cameramen are generally more discriminating in their takes and less obtrusive. Modern video cameras are able to shoot in existing light with very little loss in quality.
It is distracting enough to have one cameraman but with two, three or even four of them intruding and flashing away it can become quite a circus. Some people have albums and albums of photos of their weddings taken in every conceivable pose to remember the occasion.
Remember, the only important thing to keep is the vow.
- (6) **Wedding Feast**
A Christian wedding feast is quite different from a secular one. It is sometimes customary for the MC, the bestman or guests to tease the couple. Some of the teasings get carried away beyond the bounds of propriety and the couple should decline politely should it be incompatible with our Christian witness.

It is suggested that before you register your marriage with the Registrar of Marriages that you see your minister first to clearly understand the meaning of a Christian marriage.

Jesus said this about marriage:

"...The Creator made them male and female... For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Matthew 19:4-6

Therefore we ask God to bless our marriage first and we sign the register at the service in the Church with two witnesses and our Deputy registrar, usually our minister. The service itself must be conducted by the minister/s of our church.