



# McMurray Gospel Assembly

## Wedding Policy

---

### 1. ELIGIBILITY

We, the leadership of McMurray Gospel Assembly (MGA), view marriage as a precious gift from God. It is the most important commitment we will make in our lives outside of our relationship to Jesus Christ. While we respect the right of people to choose to marry, we also ask that couples respect our choice of involvement in that event. For reasons, theological, moral, practical or personal, MGA reserves the right to choose to perform or host marriages for couples who are deemed to be capable of a marriage relationship which conforms to the scriptural standard. The Pastors of this church are also given personal discretion and will endeavor to marry only couples who are deemed to be capable of a marriage relationship which conforms to the scriptural marriage covenant.

**Marriage preparation counseling is a prerequisite. This need not necessarily be through this church or our Pastors but must be approved by the officiating MGA pastor or the Lead Pastor.**

Our pastors reserve the right to refuse to officiate if the couple has not followed through with the approved/prescribed premarital sessions with adequate time prior to the wedding.

The laws of the Province of Alberta state that in order to marry, you must be eighteen (18) years of age or more and obtain a marriage license within three months of the wedding date.

**A refundable damage-deposit of \$150.00 is required along with your signed application in order to reserve this date. Repair or replacement cost of damaged equipment or furnishings will be assessed and invoiced if the damage is over and above the \$150.00 deposit. Damage deposits will be returned within two weeks.**

### 2. HONORARIUM/ FEES/ CANCELLATION FEES

The honorarium and fees will depend on the Ceremony and Reception options that you choose. The pastoral honorarium is standard. There is no charge for cancellation 30 days prior to the wedding date. **If the wedding is cancelled within 30 days of the wedding date, the damage deposit becomes *non-refundable*.**

### 3. THE REHEARSAL

A rehearsal will be required a day or two before the wedding, unless the couple and Pastor agree it is unnecessary. Please arrange a convenient time for everyone with the church office 1 month prior. It is important that the bride, groom, attendants, parents, ushers, sound technician, musicians and anyone involved in the ceremony are all present at the rehearsal. Please have everyone arrive on time so that the rehearsal may begin promptly. 2 hours of facility use is included in each ceremony booking for a rehearsal and will be plenty of time for a full rehearsal.

### 4. THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY

The purpose of the public marriage service is to declare your vows of trust, commitment, and love to one another before God and community. All wedding plans, including the music, photography, rehearsal, ushering and reception must be in good taste, and be respectful of God's house and the biblical definition of marriage. Your music does not necessarily need to have a 'Christian' theme, although it must reflect good taste and respect for God's house and the Christian marriage. Please discuss Music and Photography/Videography with the Pastor during the planning stages. There is room for flexibility in the style and format of the wedding service. The order of your wedding service will be planned together with the Pastor.

In general, activities and events must be in keeping with biblical standards of conduct and do not contradict our *Statement of Faith* and our *Constitution*. (Available on request)