



Wedding Ceremony Order of Service

This is a suggested pattern for the order of service that we often use at Capilano Christian Community. Since it is your wedding, you should feel free to add, drop, or alter the sequence of these events.

When we meet with couples to plan their wedding, we discuss many of the options available to them. This makes a ceremony that is custom and personal, uniquely theirs, and according to their wishes.

It has only been comparatively recent in history that couples have been participated in designing their own wedding ceremony within a church setting. For your reference, you may want to look at the classic "Anglican Wedding Ceremony" from 1662, which was widely followed until about WW II, and which has the infamous "obey" clause for the Bride. And you may want to look at the "Book of Common Prayer Wedding Ceremony" of 1945, which is followed by many churches even today.

Here is the outline from which you can create your own service —

- Ushers seat the guests (prelude music playing)

- Special music begins

- Welcome and instructions to the guests by the Minister

- Mothers / parents / VIPs enter (optional: light unity candle)

- The Minister and Groom enter and proceed to the front

- The Bridal party enters and proceeds to the front

- The Ring Bearer and / or Flower Girl enter, proceed to front

- Music concludes for bridal party

- The Minister asks the audience to rise and welcome the Bride

- Music begins for the Bride's entrance (Processional music)

- The Bride and her escort (normally Father of the Bride) enter, and are met by the Groom

- Bride's music concludes

- Bride and Groom present flowers to parents and/or VIPs (optional)

- Opening remarks to the guests

- Prayer of invocation

- The marital pledge

- The Word of God

- Musical interlude (solo, etc.)

- Pastoral guidance to the Couple (sermon)

- Family pledge

- Community pledge

- Pre-vow prayer

- Exchange of the wedding vows

- Exchange of wedding rings

- Blessing / prayer for the rings

- Audience recites the Lord's Prayer (optional)

- Declaration of marriage

- Married kiss

- Benediction

- Bride and Groom light Unity Candle (optional)

- Communion for the couple (for members of Capilano Christian Community only)

- Signing of the legal documents

- Presentation of the Bride and Groom

- Recessional music begins

- Bride and Groom exit

- Bridal party exits and forms reception line