

Uniting Church in Australia



St Thomas', Craigieburn

ARRANGEMENTS FOR WEDDINGS

We are pleased that you are seeking to be married in or by the Uniting Church, and we trust that this information will help you in making arrangements for your wedding. We hope that the occasion will be a happy and memorable one.

1. ELIGIBILITY AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

You are not required to be members of the Church. Naturally it is expected that couples will take seriously the Uniting Church's understanding of marriage, as outlined in The Marriage Service. Certain legal requirements apply to any marriage. A notice of intention to marry must be lodged with the minister at least one month before the wedding. This can be completed with the Minister at the first interview. It is required by law that the celebrant sees Birth Certificates of both parties. Other requirements will be explained during the first interview with the minister.

2. MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Preparation normally involves at least five sessions, preferably beginning at least four months before the wedding. The sessions are:

- Initial interview; completion of Notice of Intended Marriage.
- A **minimum of two sessions** committed to a program known as *PREPARE*. *PREPARE* is designed to help you improve your communication, increase your trust, deepen your understanding of each other, and build up your relationship strengths.

(**Note:** A processing fee \$44 is charged by the *PREPARE* organisation for the paper version, slightly less for the online version.)

- The Wedding Service is explored in detail.
- The Rehearsal (usually the night before the wedding).

3. THE WEDDING DAY

For weddings in the church:

Music should be arranged in consultation with the minister and the church organist, if needed.

The organist fee is \$90.00.

Photos and Videos:

We ask that no flash photographs be taken during the actual service, other than the official photographs. If your wedding is to be video-recorded, it would be helpful for the operator to attend the rehearsal. (Special video lighting is not permitted.)

Confetti:

Is not permitted.

4. DONATION

A donation of \$350 is requested. This can be paid to the Minister at the rehearsal. (In addition to the organist's fee if required)

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