

# Customary for Marriage St. George's Episcopal Church, York Harbor, Maine

## Introduction

Congratulations on your engagement! We are delighted that you're on this journey and that you've wondered about celebrating your marriage at St. George's.

Our tradition holds that marriage is a place of profound commitment. It is given for us as a place to discover how God has made us for one another, and to learn, through the joy and struggle of living our promises faithfully, how we are loved by God.

We affirm that marriage can be fully expressed in the union of two people regardless of their gender-identity or sexuality.

## Where to start

Please read through all of this information, and then get in touch with our Rector (the priest in charge of the congregation) at [ryanmails@stgeorgesyorkharbor.org](mailto:ryanmails@stgeorgesyorkharbor.org) or 207.363.6886.

### **Participation in the life of a Christian community is required.**

Like all of Christian life, Christian marriage is fundamentally connected to community. The work of marriage turns us outward to serve others, even as the community sustains a couple in the promises they've made to each other. We, the church, promise to uphold you in hard times and joyful times.

If you aren't a member of a church, and you live in the area, **we welcome you to become a part of our congregational life!** If you live elsewhere, the Rector will help you find a local Episcopal Church where they can become members. Being a member of a church entails regular participation in worship, and making a commitment of our gifts.

**At least one person in the couple being married must have been baptized.**

## **Our tradition requires that all being married must sign this Declaration of Intention.**

*We understand the teaching of the church that God's purpose for our marriage is for mutual joy, for the help and comfort we will give to each other in prosperity and adversity, and, when it is God's will, for the gift and heritage of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of God. We also understand that our marriage is to be unconditional, mutual, exclusive, faithful, and lifelong; and we engage to make the utmost effort to accept these gifts and fulfill these duties with the help of God and the support of our community.*

Please give thoughtful consideration to whether you will be able to sign this in good conscience, and share any questions you have about it with the Rector.

## **Counseling**

Couples being married in the church must participate in premarital counseling. This can be approached in a variety of ways, and can be led by our priest or by a professional marriage and family counselor; please anticipate discussing what would work best for the two of you.

## **Marriage License**

The marriage license required by the State may be picked up at the York Town Hall. The valid license must be brought to the wedding rehearsal.

You may need a copy of your marriage certificate once you are married. This can be obtained by contacting the Town Hall that issued the license. (The certificate is a legal document. The Church does not handle the certificates and cannot send you a copy.)

## **The Wedding Service**

For weddings at St. George's, we use the marriage service from the Book of Common Prayer, or one of the marriage rites more recently developed by the Church that use more gender-inclusive language. There is considerable flexibility in what we do, but these rites provide the language and structure.

The wedding service takes about 30 minutes without Holy Communion, and about one hour with Holy Communion.

## **The Wedding Rehearsal**

A rehearsal gives all involved the opportunity to practice, which will allow the wedding service to be carried out without undue anxiety.

Persons needed for the rehearsal are the couple, witnesses, ushers, readers—anyone participating in the marriage service.

*Be sure to bring your marriage license to the rehearsal.* This is very important, so if you're likely to forget, delegate this task to a trustworthy wedding attendant.

## Seating

St. George's seats about 120 people without opening the back wall and setting up chairs in the Parish Hall. Doing so allows for the seating of approximately 100 more people. The ushers are responsible for setting up and taking down any chairs set up in the Parish Hall.

## Music

Ivan Stefanov, our Minister of Music, would be happy to assist you with music for your celebration. Once your marriage is scheduled, please contact Ivan directly to make arrangements by calling the church office at 207-363-7376 or emailing Ivan at [istefanov@stgeorgesyorkharbor.org](mailto:istefanov@stgeorgesyorkharbor.org). Ivan will assist with selecting appropriate music and is available for consultation and as a resource for finding other musicians and soloists. Ivan's fee for his services is \$350.

## Wedding Program

The church will create a printed program.

## Dressing Arrangements

The classrooms on the ground level of the church are available for dressing.

## Financial Considerations

For active members of St. George's Church there are two required fees: a reservation fee of \$250, and the musician's fee of \$350.

If you are not a member of St. George's Church, **the reservation fee is \$650, and the musician's fee is \$350.**

Please note that these fees *will not* cover clergy from another church, an outside musician, extra musicians or any other participants involved in your wedding.

*Now that you have read the above customary, in order to reserve your wedding date at St. George's, we require that you sign the attached Declaration of Intention form and mail it to the church as soon as possible, along with the informational form, also attached, and your check for deposit.*

**St. George's Episcopal Church**  
**P.O. Box 364, York Harbor, Maine 03911**  
207-363-7376 / office@stgeorgesyorkharbor.org  
www.stgeorgesyorkharbor.org

*We have read the Marriage Customary for St. George's and agree to follow the policy as set forth.*

Our requested wedding date:

Our requested wedding time:

Our requested location is:

Our wedding service will include a Holy Communion

- Yes
- No

## Information About You

Name:

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Birth date:

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Birthplace:

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Current Address:

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Current phone:

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Email address:

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Name:

---

Birth date:

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Birthplace:

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Current Address:

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Current phone:

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Email address:

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Baptized:

Yes

No

Church where Communicant:

\_\_\_\_\_

I have not been married before

I have been divorced once

I am a widow(er)

Baptized:

Yes

No

Church where Communicant:

\_\_\_\_\_

I have not been married before

I have been divorced once

I am a widow(er)

Witness names

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Declaration of Intention

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

We, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

understand the teaching of the church that God's purpose for our marriage is for mutual joy, for the help and comfort we will give to each other in prosperity and adversity, and, when it is God's will, for the gift and heritage of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of God. We also understand that our marriage is to be unconditional, mutual, exclusive, faithful, and lifelong; and we engage to make the utmost effort to accept these gifts and fulfill these duties with the help of God and the support of our community.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. \_\_\_\_\_