

Marriage Privileges in The FCA

In order to clarify the process for obtaining marriage privileges within the FCA the following summary has been prepared in point form:

1. Marriage privileges are registered with the various provincial departments on behalf of the FCA and the churches that are members of the FCA.
2. Marriage privileges comprise of two aspects of the marriage process for ministers.
 - Marriages are performed as part of the legal requirement of the provincial statutes regarding marriage
 - Marriages are performed as part of the religious ceremonies of the local churches within the FCA. Marriage privileges are obtained for the ministers authorized to perform those ceremonies by the Fellowship of Christian Assemblies. The authority to obtain those marriage privileges within the FCA rests with the Secretary of the Fellowship who acts on behalf of the fellowship as a whole and on behalf of the the local church. In Ontario the Associate Secretary acts on behalf of the FCA. It is a requirement of the Office of the Registrar General that the person who obtains marriage privileges in Ontario be a resident of the province.
3. Marriage privileges within the FCA are contingent upon renewal of the annual membership. When annual membership in the FCA is not renewed the marriage privileges are cancelled.
4. Every minister must meet minimal licensing/ordination requirements as set forth by the FCA. This also includes ministers who have transferred their membership from another fellowship/denomination.
5. Each minister who obtains provincial authorization to perform marriages is given a certificate of registration with a number on it. This document is their legal authorization to perform marriages and should be displayed in the minister's office so that potential marriage candidates can see it. In some provinces the certificate must be returned to the FCA Secretary when marriage privileges are cancelled.
6. Ministers who perform marriage ceremonies are required to provide the couple whom they marry with a duly signed certificate of marriage. It is usual practice for the minister to provide a copy of the marriage ceremony with the certificate included. Samples are available.
7. Registration documents for marriage must be sent to the provincial department of Vital Statistics as soon as possible after the wedding is performed.
8. Each minister is given material outlining the provincial government requirements when performing marriage. This package of materials is received with the Certificate authorizing the minister to perform marriages.
9. Provincial government marriage acts outline the specific requirements within each province. It is vital that ministers who perform marriages become familiar with the requirements in the province of the marriage.
10. If a minister wishes to perform a marriage in a province other than the one in which he/she normally performs marriages they must obtain a temporary registration to perform marriage which is valid for a specific date, time and place. Requests for temporary marriage privileges must be applied for at least six to eight weeks in advance.
11. Ministers who perform marriages when not authorized to do so can cause considerable difficulty for the couples they may have married because the marriage is not legal and the couple may have to have some other person marry them again.

It is important for every minister to recognize that they are not performing just a religious ceremony, they are also performing a legal ceremony and they have a responsibility to do so in a professional and ethical manner. In order to obtain a divorce after a couple have married there are extensive legal requirements that must be met. As ministers we should ensure that the couples we marry have met the requirements of our local church. Performing a marriage is a moral, legal and religious responsibility that we should not take lightly.

Marriage Ceremony

John Doe

And

Jane Doe

October 10, 2011

Marriage Certificate

This Certifies That

John Doe

of Ardrossan

Province of Alberta

And

Jane Doe

of Edmonton

Province of Alberta

Were By Me

UNITED IN MARRIAGE

on the 10th day of October, 2009

at Richfield Christian Fellowship
3715 – 85th St
in Edmonton, Alberta

Groom _____ Witness _____
John Doe *a special friend*

Bride _____ Witness _____
Jane Doe *another special friend*

Minister _____
Reverend Bill Jones

Marriage License No. L0000201111-2009

Minister's License 3818/101

AN ORDER FOR THE
SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGE

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Psalm 127.1
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths. Proverbs 3.6

John Doe and

Jane Doe

you have signified your desire to enter into the holy state of marriage, and no one has shown just cause why you may not. If either of you know any lawful impediment why you may not be married, I charge you before God, the Searcher of all hearts, to declare it.

Father, we thank you for the love that John and Jane have declared for one another. We ask now that you would bless them as they proclaim that love in vows of marriage. May their hearts be pure and their intentions honest, in Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, and endures all things. Love never ends. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Jesus said: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15.9-12

Jesus said, "Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one'? So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder." Matthew 19.4-6

Friends, we are gathered here to witness the marriage of John Doe and Jane Doe, and to ask God to bless them. By our presence we accept responsibility for supporting them in the relationship into which they are about to enter. We are called to rejoice in their happiness, to be patient with them when they make mistakes, to help them in times of trouble, and to remember them in our prayers.

God established marriage that man and woman might have life-long companionship; that natural instincts and affections might be fulfilled in mutual love; that children might have the benefit of family life and that society might rest on a firm foundation. The apostle Paul compared married love to that of Christ for his Church. Thus he gave us a new vision of what marriage ought to be, a life of self-giving love.

John and Jane your marriage joins you for life in a relationship so intimate that it profoundly affects your whole being. It offers you the promise of a love that is true and mature. Such a love requires that you commit your lives to one another freely and without reserve, for the sake of a deeper and wider life together. Seek to become one in mind and heart as well as one in body.

Let us pray for John and Jane as they make their marriage vows.

Father, you made man and woman from the beginning. Let your spirit rest upon them as they pledge themselves to one another in vows of love and faithfulness. Let your love rest upon them and their children, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

John will you have Jane to be your wife?

if so please answer I will.

Jane will you have John to be your husband?

if so please answer I will.

Would the family of the bride and groom please rise? Since John and Jane have publicly signified their intention of accepting each other in marriage, I ask you as their family, do you give them your blessing and do you promise them your love, support, and encouragement in the days and years to come. If so please answer we do.

John please repeat after me.

In the presence of God and before these witnesses, I, John take you Jane to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; in joy and in sorrow; to love and to cherish and to be faithful to you alone, as long as we both shall live and to this end I give you my word.

Jane please repeat after me.

In the presence of God and before these witnesses, I, Jane take you John to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; in joy and in sorrow; to love and to cherish and to be faithful to you alone, as long as we both shall live and to this end I give you my word.

Prayer for and exchange of the rings.

John please repeat after me.

I give you this ring that you may wear it as a symbol of the vows we have made this day.

Jane please repeat after me.

I give you this ring that you may wear it as a symbol of the vows we have made this day.

Forasmuch as John Doe and Jane Doe have made this solemn covenant of marriage before God and before this company, I declare then to be husband and wife.

John and Jane you may kiss one another.

Prayer of Blessing.

Father, you are the Lord of life and Love eternal, Author of all good and giver of all joy: we thank you for the gift of marriage. We thank you for the joy which John and Jane have found in each other, and for the vows which they have made before you.

Father, grant that they may dwell together in unity and love all the days of their lives. Grant them health, prosperity and peace .. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
And give you his peace. Amen.

The signing of the register.

Ladies and Gentlemen it is my great pleasure to introduce you to a newly married couple:

Mr. & Mrs. John & Jane Doe