

WEDDING HANDBOOK

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROCESS

The following process is for an engaged couple who attend any campus of Beulah Alliance Church and want to be married by a Beulah Pastor at the West Campus, Southwest Campus, or an offsite location. In the instance where a couple who attends a Beulah Campus wishes to be married by a visiting pastor, the couple will be directed to the Congregational Care Pastor.

A couple may approach a Beulah Pastor directly to officiate a wedding that is not being done through Beulah and is offsite. Agreement and marriage preparation requirements are at the discretion of that Pastor. However, many pastors will refer a couple to our church marriage preparation process.

PLEASE NOTE: We require a minimum six-month preparation period for your wedding.

STARTING POINT

Fill out the online application form which can be found at <https://beulah.ca/weddings/>
The marriage preparation process and tentative booking of your wedding date cannot begin until we receive your application form.

After you complete the required application, we will *tentatively* book your wedding date or inform you if there is a booking conflict. An initial pastoral marriage preparation session will be set up with our Congregational Care Pastor after which we can officially confirm your wedding.

All couples being married onsite at a Beulah Campus by a Beulah Pastor are required to complete our Marriage Preparation Process. This includes the above-mentioned initial session with the Congregational Care Pastor, attendance at a Marriage Preparation Course, and four sessions with a marriage mentor couple. Alternative marriage preparation arrangements are possible where necessary. The marriage preparation process will be fully explained to you at the initial session with the Congregational Care Pastor.

At the time of your initial pastoral marriage preparation session, you will discuss arrangements for a Pastor to officiate your wedding, including requests you may have for a particular pastor.

The Congregational Care Pastor will confirm your officiating Pastor and you will meet with them several months before your wedding to plan your service.

PLEASE NOTE: Any changes must be brought to the attention of the Congregational Care Pastor.

We look forward to working with you and getting to know you better. Please address all questions or concerns to weddings@beulah.ca. Thank you and have fun planning your special day!

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BEULAH ALLIANCE CHURCH MARRIAGE POLICY

It is our desire that your marriage be a lasting and fulfilling relationship, and that it be all that God intended it to be. God created man and woman and from the beginning, He intended that they be joined in marriage so they could live in community and reflect the closeness of the Trinity to the world. Since God designed the marriage relationship, it makes sense that He knows best how to build a successful relationship. We want to partner with you to help in one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. We are pleased that you are considering Beulah to share this special moment and we are committed to helping you make a strong marriage rather than simply performing a ceremony.

In scripture, God has given us basic principles which must be understood and applied if we hope to experience joy and fulfillment in marriage. Ignoring these principles will result in frustration and possible failure in the marriage relationship. It is also vitally important to us as Beulah Alliance Church that we honour God and His ways in carrying out the joyful and solemn responsibility of joining a couple in the holy covenant of marriage.

Our pastors are fully committed to honouring God and building strong marriages. We ask that you enter into an agreement with us to live out certain commitments before your marriage which is detailed in the Marriage Preparation Agreement that will be discussed in the initial pastoral session. Our purpose is to honour God's principles for marriage and to be sure there are no hindrances to a great start in marriage. Your relationship as a couple may involve unique circumstances which you can discuss with the Care Ministries Pastor.

God established marriage as a covenant or agreement between a man and woman and Himself that would endure a lifetime because of His grace. We encourage couples to be willing to prepare for their marriage carefully. We recommend a minimum six-month preparation period and require a couple to participate in our Marriage Preparation Program. This includes an initial pastoral session, attendance at a Marriage Preparation Course and four mentoring sessions with a mature married couple (comparable substitutes would be considered). Couples will be asked to enter into an agreement with the church regarding this process and the guiding policy in the next few pages.

1

VALUES: The following Biblical values regarding marriage will be upheld in the Marriage Preparation Program:

- God holds a marriage and sexual purity in high regard.

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.
Hebrews 13:4

- Marriage is to be an exclusive lifelong union of one man and one woman which becomes a visible expression of a spiritual reality.

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.
Ephesians 5:31-32

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- Christ models the kind of love that marriage is meant to represent. We are to model sacrificial love in our relationship after the way Christ loves the Church.

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

Ephesians 5:22,25

- Marriage is not a contract but a lasting covenant.

...“the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Matthew 19:4-6

- Marriage was created so that deep community could be achieved.

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

Genesis 2:18

- Even though marriage is a vitally important relationship, our relationship with God and love for Him must come first.

“The most important commandment is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’”

Mark 12:29-30

2

We require that there be relational and spiritual harmony when entering a marriage. God cautions that a couple must be unified in their spiritual perspective. Over time, two incompatible values and belief systems will ultimately end in conflict.

Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?

2 Corinthians 6:14

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3

We will consider marrying a couple who are not part of Beulah's faith community but ask that they comply with our Marriage Preparation Agreement in discussion with our Congregational Care Pastor.

We believe sexual intimacy is reserved for marriage as a safeguard to purity and to give an engaged couple the opportunity to build strong foundational relationships built on honouring God and one another. God calls the everyday person to sexual purity, outside and within marriage.

Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery.

Hebrews 13:4

There are many reasons for this:

- It weakens the commitment to the marriage vow.
- It increases the probability of divorce. (Stephen Nock in Divorce and the Division of Labour cites evidence that common-law couples who lived together prior to marriage divorced 6-times more frequently than those who did not.)
- It increases the guilt in one or both parties, which can lead to some major problems later.
- It is disobedience to God's will. (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)
Therefore, we will request couples, if they are followers of Jesus, to abstain from sexual relations until after the wedding. Couples living together will likely be requested to separate until the wedding unless children or other extenuating circumstances are involved. Please discuss this further with the Congregational Care Pastor if necessary.

4

Divorce: Marriage is a sacred covenant in God's eyes, and we want to hold it sacred. Therefore, we view divorce as:

- Breaking of a covenant.

"For I hate divorce!" says the LORD, the God of Israel. "To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. "So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife."

Malachi 2:16

- Departure from God's Purpose

Jesus replied, "Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended."

Matthew 19:8

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- Divine concession to human weakness is permitted only in cases of adultery or habitual immorality and if a partner abandons the marriage due to spiritual disunity or unbelief.

Jesus replied, "Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended."
Matthew 19:8

- Forbidden in the case of divorcing your partner so that you can simply marry another person.

He told them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries someone else, she commits adultery."
Mark 10:11-12

- Divorce is to be considered **only after every effort** has been made to reconcile through counselling or support. (1 Corinthians 7)

5

Remarriage: Due to the brokenness of our world and the results of sin, even in the marriage relationship, there are cases where the remarriage of divorced people is permitted, as instructed by the pages of Scripture.

This includes the following scenarios:

- When your former spouse is deceased.

For example, by law, a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law that binds her to him.

Romans 7:2

A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies; she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:39

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- When sexual unfaithfulness by the spouse has occurred (Matthew 19:3-9)

...“Haven’t you read the Scriptures?”, Jesus replied. “They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’ And he said, “This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. Since they are no longer two but one, let one split apart what God has joined together.”

Jesus replied, “Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended. And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery – unless his wife has been unfaithful.”

Matthew 19:3-9

- When the spouse has remarried.
- When the unbelieving spouse deserts the marriage.

But if the husband or wife who isn’t a believer insists on leaving, let them go. In such cases, the believing husband or wife is no longer bound to the other, for God has called you to live in peace.

1 Corinthians 7:15

6

In the event that a Beulah pastor has refused to perform the ceremony, due to reservations on the couple’s readiness or concerns regarding the relationship, no other Beulah pastor will perform the ceremony.

7

We believe in the solemnity and sacredness of the ceremony and refuse to perform the ceremony if either person displays signs of intoxication, before or during the rehearsal and/or wedding ceremony. *Any member of the wedding party who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be permitted to participate in the wedding.* There are to be no alcoholic beverages or smoking in the church building at any time.

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FACILITY INFORMATION

Beulah is one church in multiple locations. We have three physical locations: West Campus, Southwest Campus, and Faro de Luz/Bonnie Doon Campus. To assist you in making your wedding day one that will be filled with wonderful and lasting memories, please read through the following.

Rental Fees

All fees are due 30 days prior to the wedding date. Fees include the use of the facility, a room designated for the bridal party, and room set-ups. Please see the rental fees on the following pages.

Damage Deposit

A damage deposit of **\$200** is payable upon signing the contract. The damage deposit will be refunded 2-4 weeks after your wedding provided that no damage has occurred to the building or the equipment, you have vacated the premises within the agreed-upon time, and that the space was left clean. An inspection will be done after the ceremony, with any damage being reported at that time. The \$200 Damage Deposit is refundable in the event that your wedding ceremony is cancelled.

Sound & Lighting

Lighting, sound equipment, and a lighting/audio technician are exclusively provided by Beulah for weddings at a Beulah Campus. This is included in the rental fee. Although this is typically sufficient there will be an additional charge if an additional technician is needed. You can discuss your needs with your designated Administrative Wedding Specialist.

Music & Musicians

The responsibility for providing music or musicians for the wedding ceremony rests with the Bridal couple. Please notify your designated Administrative Wedding Specialist of any music you wish to have during your ceremony, whether it is digital, or you have musicians, to arrange the tech needs.

Receptions

Receptions are not available for booking at any campuses.

Bridal Rooms

The Bridal room is available one hour before the ceremony. It is recommended that the men arrive completely dressed and ready for the ceremony; however, a Grooms Room can be provided if requested.

Decorations

Decoration setup can be done on the rehearsal day during office hours. Or, during the rehearsal. Please consider that the stage will be cleared one hour prior to rehearsal. Coordinate these details with the Administrative Wedding Specialist.

Honorarium for Officiating Pastor

Honorariums should be given directly to the pastor immediately following the ceremony. The recommended honorarium amount for the wedding service is \$200. If the pastor also did premarital counselling with you, then the amount should reflect the time and counselling provided.

Guest Pastors

Beulah welcomes guest pastors to officiate if they are credentialed to perform weddings by a mainstream evangelical Christian denomination and have current clergy status and a clergy registration number for Alberta or have a temporary permit to perform a wedding in Alberta if they are licenced in another province. In addition, they must agree with Beulah's Marriage Policy. Approval for a guest pastor to perform the wedding must come from the Congregational Care Pastor.

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WEST CAMPUS | CHAPEL

17504 98A Avenue NW | Edmonton, AB | T5T 5T8

Rental Fee: \$450

Capacity: 160 Guests

Features: The Chapel has double doors at the front and a double door at the side/back. It is furnished by rows of padded interlocking chairs, a full sound system, a projector, a drum set, and a piano.

Availability: Wedding ceremonies can be booked at your discretion within the time frame of 10 am–2 pm for Saturday weddings. The latest start time for ceremonies is 1 pm, and the church must be vacated by 2 pm, to accommodate weekend services.

These times are inclusive of the areas inside the church only. You may have a receiving line, visit with your guests, or take pictures outside on the church grounds prior to and after these times. All guests, family, and those involved in the wedding party **MUST** be out of the Chapel by the end of the time frame availability.

Restrictions: We cannot accommodate wedding bookings for the first two weekends that follow the September Labour Day long weekend.

The church is closed on statutory holidays (i.e., Good Friday, Canada Day, Remembrance Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, etc.). We cannot accommodate your wedding or rehearsal on these days.

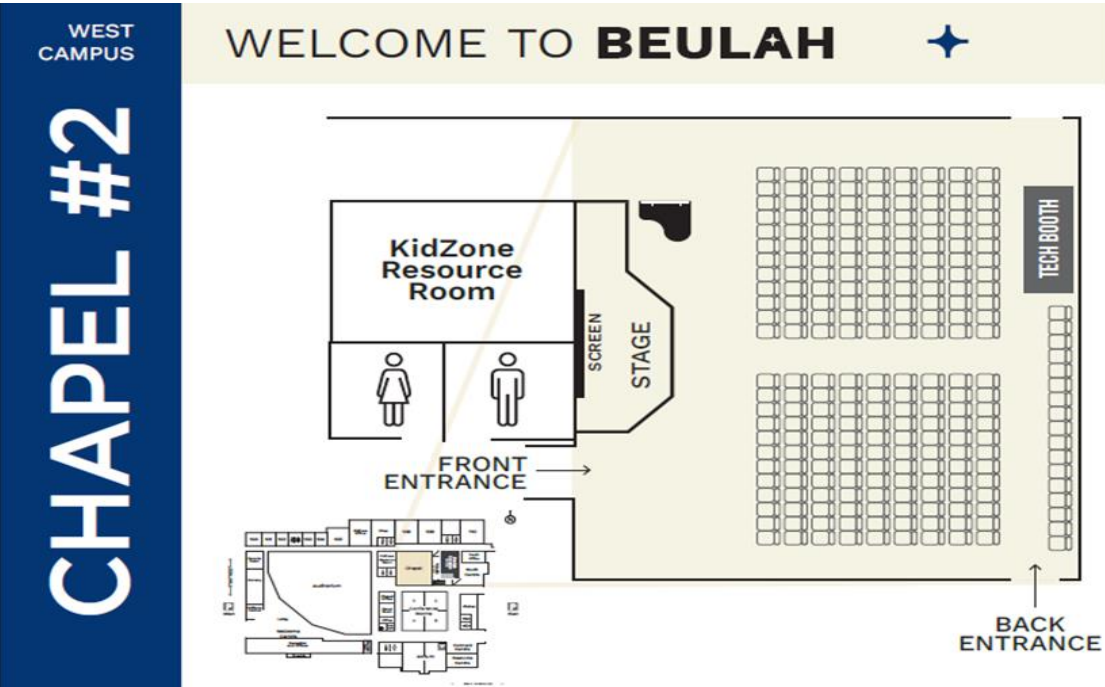
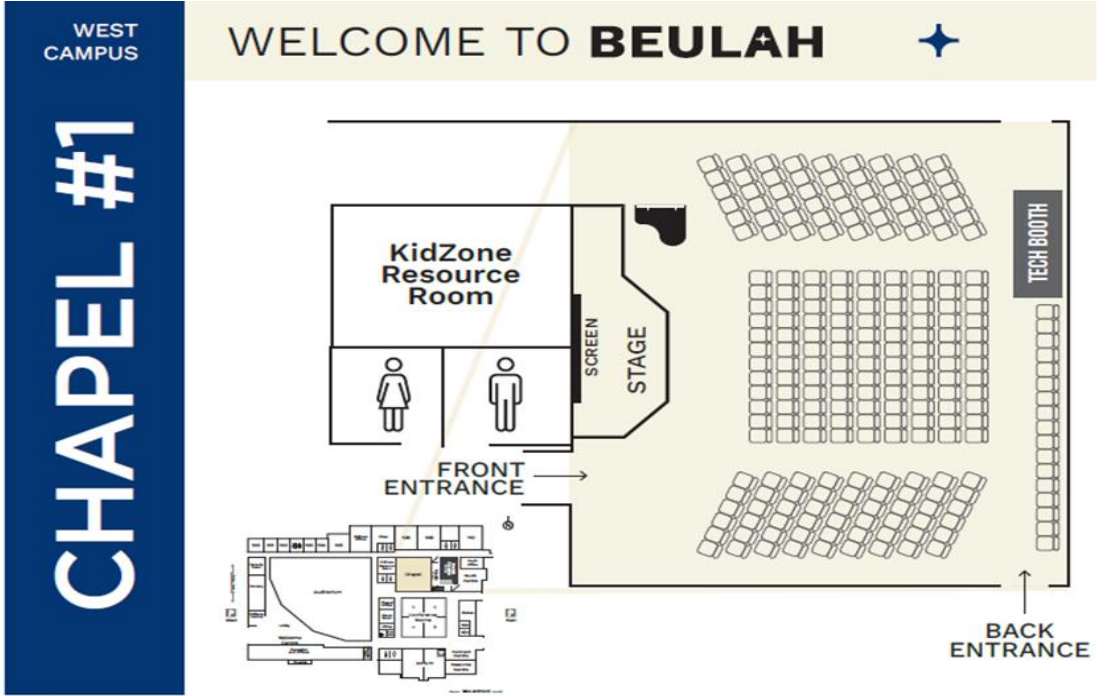
Rehearsals: Wedding rehearsals are typically booked for about an hour between 5:00 and 7:00 pm on the Friday before a Saturday wedding, subject to Chapel availability. You will need to confirm the rehearsal time with your designated Administrative Wedding Specialist. The bridal party, officiating pastor, and all technicians should be present.

PLEASE NOTE: Beulah Alliance Church operates first and foremost as a church; therefore, priority is given to the ministry of the church. That being said, we will do our best to work with you and accommodate your requests.

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WEST CAMPUS | CHAPEL

17504 98A Avenue NW | Edmonton, AB | T5T 5T8



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SOUTHWEST CAMPUS | AUDITORIUM

5055 Chappelle Road SW | Edmonton, AB | T6W 4H7

Rental Fee: \$500

Capacity: 350 Guests

Features: Beulah's Southwest Campus Auditorium has two sets of double doors at the back with two aisles on either side of the centre section. It is furnished by rows of padded interlocking chairs, a full sound system, a projector, a drum set, and a piano.

Availability: To Be Determined

Restrictions: We cannot accommodate wedding bookings on the first two weekends that follow the September Labour Day long weekend.

The church is closed on statutory holidays (i.e. New Year's Day, Good Friday, Canada Day, Remembrance Day, Christmas Day, etc.). We cannot accommodate your wedding or rehearsal on these days).

The stage set design cannot be guaranteed until 2-3 weeks before your wedding.

Rehearsals: Wedding rehearsals are typically booked for about an hour between 5:00 and 7:00 pm on the Friday before a Saturday wedding, subject to Chapel availability. You will need to confirm the rehearsal time with your designated Administrative Wedding Specialist. The bridal party, officiating pastor, and all technicians should be present.

PLEASE NOTE: Beulah Alliance Church operates first and foremost as a church; therefore, priority is given to the ministry of the church. That being said, we will do our best to work with you and accommodate your requests.

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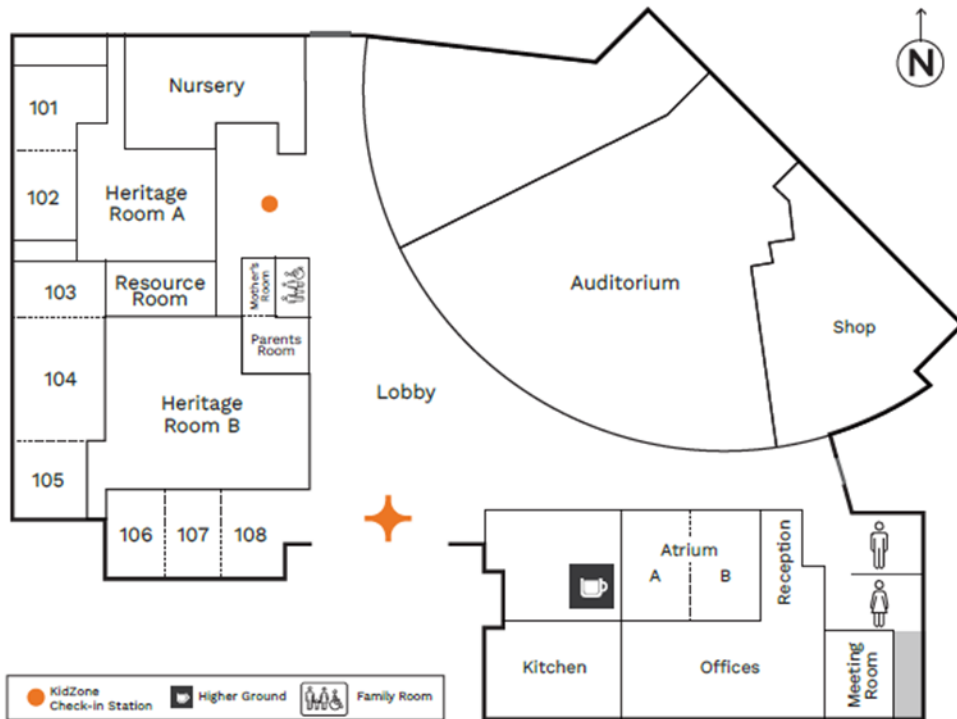
SOUTHWEST CAMPUS | AUDITORIUM

5055 Chappelle Road SW | Edmonton, AB | T6W 4H7

SOUTH WEST CAMPUS

DIRECTORY

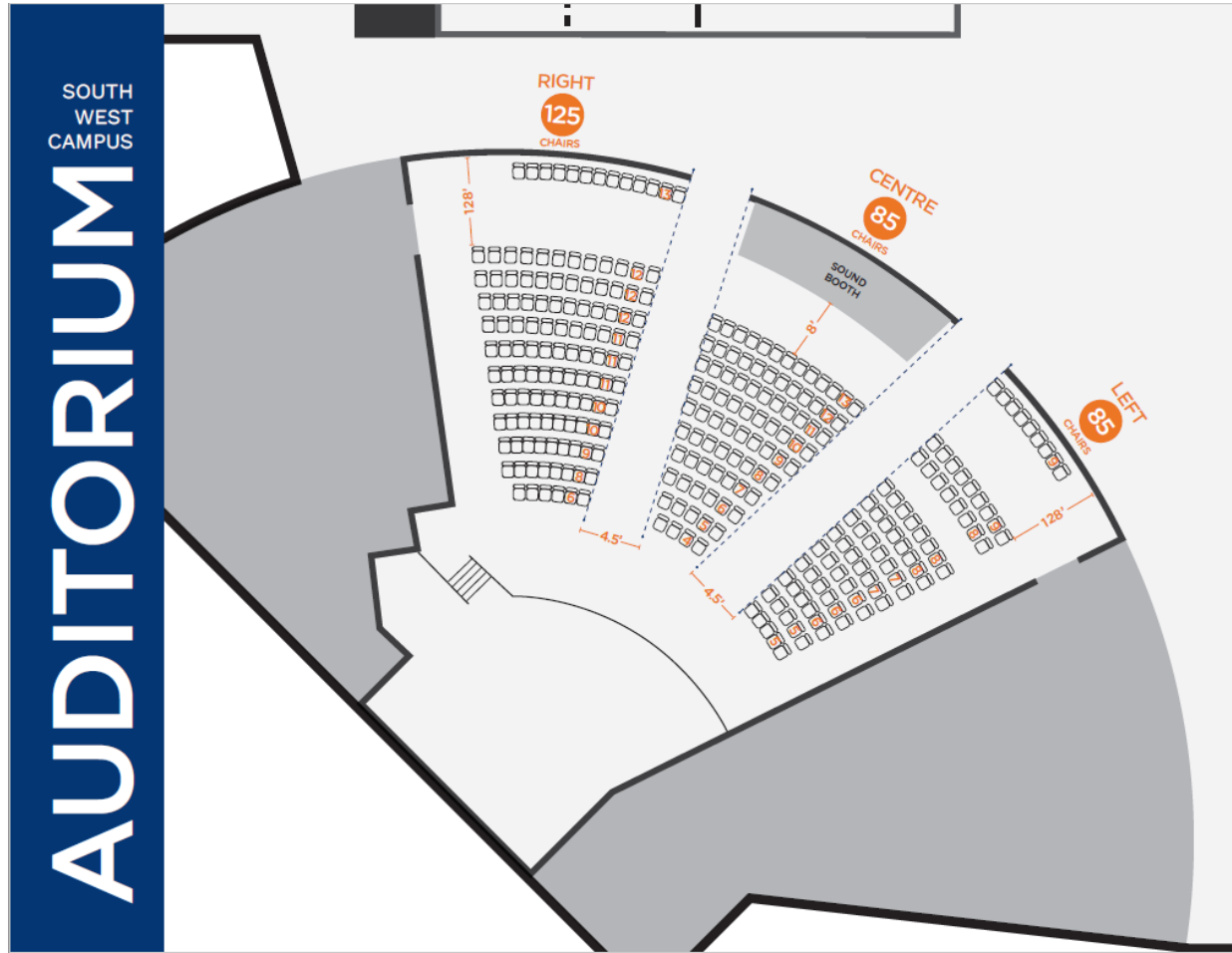
WELCOME TO **BEULAH**



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SOUTHWEST CAMPUS | AUDITORIUM

5055 Chappelle Road SW | Edmonton, AB | T6W 4H7



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Optional: Please return this page to weddings@beulah.ca after your Wedding

We would like your feedback concerning your wedding experience at Beulah Alliance Church. Your feedback will help to continue our Ministry so that it will serve future brides and grooms in a Christ-honouring way.

Please give us any feedback you would like concerning the following:

1. Marriage Preparation Program

- a. Course (Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts OR Ready or Knot?)

- a. Pastoral Session (an initial session with Congregational Care Pastor.

- a. Mentoring (with mentor couple or pastor)

2. The Officiating Pastor

3. The Facility

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APPLYING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

Right after your wedding we will take your completed **Marriage License** and mail it to Service Alberta for your marriage to be registered. You or a family member will receive a photocopy of the completed Marriage License on your wedding day. Please note: that this photocopy is not an official or legal document.

The document you will need to make the legal name changes is a **Marriage Certificate**. We recommend you wait one week after your wedding date to allow time for Service Alberta to receive your completed Marriage License from us and register your marriage. You apply for your Marriage Certificate through any Registry Office. You need to decide if you want a wallet-sized certificate or a framing size. A Marriage Certificate is a required document that you need.

The [Application for Marriage Documents](#) (PDF, 3 pages) can be filled out before you go to the Registry Office. They will also have the application there.

- Only one of you needs to go to the Registry Office to apply.
- You will need your photo ID.
- It takes 3-5 business days to receive your Marriage Certificate in the mail.

If you are in a rush to get your marriage certificate you may be able to apply at any Registry Office before 11:30 am and pick up your certificate at a downtown Service Alberta office the same day (the Registry Office can give you the address for pick up) or if it is after 11:30 am you can pick it up the next day.

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New Building Protocols

PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE GUIDELINES:

- As of March 09, 2022, the City of Edmonton has repealed the mask bylaw. Masks will not be required on any of our campuses.
- Any person experiencing any signs of illness including cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat, is asked to stay at home.

FAMILY HOST:

We suggest that families designate a Family Host or take on these responsibilities themselves, to be the liaison before, and during, the day of the rehearsal and wedding, to help in the following areas:

- Prepare all audio/visual presentations on a memory stick and bring it to the rehearsal;
- On the day of the wedding:
 - Set up a guest table with family items, flowers, additional masks for guests, etc;
 - Consider bringing hand sanitizer or wipes for the table if a pen is to be supplied with a guest book.
 - Set up the front of the Chapel/Auditorium with flowers, etc.
 - Be available to Beulah staff when needed.
 - Work with the Officiating Pastor who can answer questions about logistics.

Consider providing these details to your wedding guests to help prepare them for arrival:

West Campus Building Access Instructions.

- Beulah's exterior doors are always locked.
- Please park in the east parking lot behind the building.
- The wedding will take place in The Chapel.
- Access is only through the Youth Centre Lobby exterior doors, which are to the right as you face the building.
- An usher will be at the Youth Centre exterior doors to greet you.
- There are washrooms near the Kitchen.

Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to hosting this celebration!

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WEST CAMPUS

WELCOME TO BEULAH



DIRECTORY

