

Guidelines for Marriage outside the Church Building
In the Diocese of Rupert's Land

In June 2004, the General Synod amended Canon XXI on Marriage in the Church to read as follows:

The body of the Church is the appropriate place for the solemnization of a marriage but a marriage may be solemnized in another location if the incumbent, after consultation with the bishop, is satisfied that the solemnity and public nature of the occasion will be preserved and that the service will be conducted with dignity in godly and decent order.

From time to time, clergy may be requested to solemnize a marriage outside a church building. In these instances the newly revised General Synod Canon XXI on Marriage in the Church states that the incumbent is to consult with the Bishop. In consulting with the Bishop, the Priest should provide the following information:

- **Are one or both persons members of the parish?**
- **When is the marriage?**
- **Where is the proposed alternate site?**
- **What are the reasons for proposing an alternate site and why not the Church itself?**
- **What is your opinion: are you satisfied that “ the solemnity and public nature of the occasion will be preserved”, and that the service can be “conducted with dignity in godly and decent order?”**
- **Are you willing to officiate at the service?**

Please provide this information in writing (e-mail is appropriate) and the bishop will respond promptly. If there are any unresolved issues, the bishop will contact the incumbent personally.