



The American Church in Paris

VOW RENEWALS GUIDELINES Information about Vow Renewals

Wedding coordinator

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Thank you for contacting The American Church in Paris about your desire to have a Vow Renewal ceremony at the church. We want to serve your needs as well as we can, and we hope that we can accommodate your requests. Because we are an international and interdenominational congregation, we welcome people from diverse backgrounds and Christian traditions. We have prepared the following information to help you understand the procedures we follow and to answer the most frequently-asked questions about having a ceremony at our Church.

1. A Vow Renewal is not a service we provide soon after you have your legal ceremony. We often do blessing of marriage ceremonies for couples who desire to have a religious ceremony following their legal marriage service. Our renewal service implies that you have been married for some time. We can provide this type of service after you have been legally married a minimum of 5 years. It is very important for us to receive from you a copy of your legal marriage certificate for our records. The easiest way to do this is to send a scanned copy of the certificate by email.

2. All Vow Renewal ceremonies in The American Church in Paris will be performed by one of our ordained pastors, usually the visiting pastor. If you desire for your pastor to be involved, he/she can co-officiate at the invitation of the visiting pastor. You will need to discuss such a request with the visiting pastor. All Vow Renewals are services of The American Church.

3. Vow Renewal services must be reserved as far in advance as possible, and should be confirmed in writing, preferably by e-mail. We do understand that couples at times make the decision to make a renewal of the marriage vows at pretty much the last minute. If that is the case, we will try to accommodate you on a time available basis.

4. Confirming reservations and/or communicating questions or requests is best done by e-mail, especially when there is a time difference between France and, for example, the U.S.

5. The Vow Renewal service will normally be in English.

6. The sanctuary will be reserved for one hour for your service. At the beginning of the hour, the pastor will show you the sanctuary and follow this with a visit in the narthex of the church. In this comfortable setting, there will be the opportunity to get acquainted and to review the service. The service which will follow the orientation and visitation time is about 20 to 25 minutes long. This will allow time for greetings and photos following the service.

7. Photographers, if any, should understand that the ceremony is an occasion of religious significance; and therefore, photos taken during the actual ceremony should be done discreetly and with regard for the occasion. The photographer should visit with the pastor before the ceremony about where and when photos may be taken. Often for renewal services, a professional photographer is not employed by the couple.

Expected donations

The American Church in Paris is a self-supporting Church with no external sources of funding. Its extensive ministries to the English-speaking expatriate community are supported solely by the giving of the congregation, rents from community groups using the church's facilities, and wedding donations. The schedule of suggested donations reflects not only our costs in providing you with a beautiful atmosphere and spiritual ministry on the occasion of your wedding ceremony, but a source of vital income that enables us to continue to provide our extensive ministries to all who come through our doors.

The **customary donation** for a Vow Renewal ceremony with music is **500€**. To secure a booking, the full payment is required in advance. Renewal services at the American Church include one hour of sanctuary time, the pastor, organ music by our organist, and correspondence with the wedding coordinator.

Cancellations must be made to the wedding coordinator at least two weeks before the wedding date. The charges for cancellations made after this limit are as follows: between 14 days to 7 days before the ceremony – 50€; and less than 7 days before the ceremony - 100€.