

VII. GUIDELINES FOR WEDDINGS

(Approved April 2007, amended 2025)

St. Paul's United Church celebrates the opportunity to be involved with couples wanting to be married in the context of Christian worship.

We affirm that marriage is a gift of God through which two people make a covenant with one another and with God in the full intention of a lifelong commitment.

The marriage ceremony is an act of Christian worship and therefore we assume that couples wanting to be married in the church have a significant commitment to the Christian faith.

Marriage commissioners are available for those who desire only a legal ceremony.

Marriage preparation sessions are recommended.

It is the expectation of the church that, normally, a wedding would be arranged at least 90 days in advance.

Civil and Legal Requirements:

Marriage is a legal act governed by the laws of the province of Manitoba. A marriage licence must be obtained.

When the wedding is conducted by a minister of religion, that person acts on behalf of the government to legalize the marriage by signing and forwarding the appropriate forms to the Division of Vital Statistics.

Two witnesses are required for the ceremony. Both of these witnesses must be at least 12 years of age.

The Wedding Service:

- The minister will determine the order of worship, in consultation with the couple.
- A rehearsal can be held before the wedding. All people involved in the wedding should attend the rehearsal, including musicians, ushers, parents, and photographers. There is no need for other people to attend.
- Flash photography /video will be allowed in the service but should not disrupt the service.
- If you wish to involve another minister in the service, this needs to be discussed with the resident minister of the church.
- The service will not include words that indicate "the giving away of the bride". If desired, parents and/or family and friends can be asked to give a blessing to the couple. There are many different ways for the wedding party to enter and leave the sanctuary. These can be discussed with the minister.

Costs Related to Your Wedding:

Our church has on-going expenses related to the daily functioning of our congregation and the upkeep of our building. When you choose to be married here, we ask you to make the following contributions to these expenses. We ask that you place these amounts in separate envelopes, marked clearly, and give them to the church secretary prior to the rehearsal.

- **Use of sanctuary (day of and rehearsal)** (sanctuary holds 225 persons) **\$150.00**

Church hall is available to rent if requested.

- **Wedding Caretaker** **\$100.00**

This includes being at the rehearsal and the wedding, unlocking & locking doors, setting up and moving furniture, managing sound system, extra cleaning, and being available to the family for other needs. This is an honorarium as this work is done by a volunteer.

- **Minister's Honorarium**

The minister does not have a set fee, since weddings are a part of the work of the church. However, ministers usually give extra time, including their evenings and week-ends for the marriage preparation sessions, the rehearsal and the service. Therefore, a monetary gift of appreciation is not required but would be acceptable. We would suggest \$200.00

If you wish the minister to attend the reception, please provide an invitation expressing your wishes.