



Grace United Church

"Grace United Church strives to welcome, inspire, and support all in personal and spiritual growth as we walk with Jesus Christ on our faith journeys."

POLICY: WEDDING POLICY

Revision January 11, 2022

Preamble

The Christian rite of marriage is a service of worship. Those who come as wedding guests are part of the worshipping community. In this act of worship, the participants gather to celebrate God's gifts and to seek with the couple, God's blessing on their lives and on their relationship.

Approval

Requests for marriage will be made through the Minister. All requests for the use of the church for a marriage ceremony are received and considered on an individual basis by Session, and must be approved by Session and the Minister.

Marriage License

In the Province of Ontario couples may be married under the authority of a marriage license. The Marriage License may be purchased at any City Hall within Ontario. It is valid for three months. The Marriage License should be brought to the church office before the wedding date, preferably in the week before the wedding. If the Minister is unable to serve, then alternate plans may be made with their agreement. (Session Minutes 1987/9/9)

Marriage Preparation

The Session strongly recommends that all couples participate in 2-3 Pre-Marriage sessions approved by the Minister. These sessions focus on giving couples knowledge and skills that will help make their marriage the best possible, and, also help couples take a realistic look at the challenges of commitment while offering some strategies for success. It is also an opportunity for the minister to get to know the couple and for them to get to know our community of faith.

Music

Our Director of Music has responsibility for music at Grace United Church and will be pleased to meet with you to help choose the music for your wedding service. In consultation with the minister and the organist, couples may include other musicians in the service.

Bulletins

The church does not supply bulletins for wedding ceremonies, but the minister will be available to assist with service outline information.

Wedding Service

The service is planned in consultation with the Minister on the basis of normal United Church liturgical practice with some flexibility.

Officiant

All weddings will be performed by the Minister of Grace United Church.

In consultation with the Minister, other clergy may participate in the service by offering a meditation and/or prayers.

Decorations

Flowers and other decorations are welcome in the sanctuary. You may arrange access to the church prior to the wedding to place your own decorations in the sanctuary. These decorations must be removed right after the wedding. We have a 'NO CONFETTI' policy—no confetti or rice in the church or on the grounds. For more information, please contact the church office at (519) 655-2151.

Rehearsal

All members of the wedding party are asked to attend a rehearsal, as well as others who are taking part "ie" readers, candle lighters, etc.

The rehearsal takes approximately 1 hour. It is a time to check out details such as parking, positions and to walk through the whole service from start to finish. Please be on time because the minister/organist may have other appointments.

Photography

Photographs may be taken only during processional/recessional, signing of documents, and may be posed at the front of the church after the service is over. Videotaping the ceremony is permitted from a stationary position using available light only. If other pictures are desired, please have the photographer speak to the minister at least 15 minutes before the ceremony or at the rehearsal.

Fees

The Fees and Honorariums are to be paid (in cash, in separate envelopes) to the minister on the evening of the rehearsal.

(Fees to be reviewed annually by the board)

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| Music Director | \$200.00 |
| Soloist | Couples' responsibility |
| Custodian | \$200.00 |
| Minister | \$400.00 |

Booking Arrangements

must be booked through the church office at 519-655-2151.

Rev. Gail Fricker Office (519) 655-2151 Cell 519 703 1954

E-mail gfricker@roger.com

Music Director Marilyn Nystrom Cell 604 845 3334

Email marilynenystrom@gmail.com

Office e-mail graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com