

GUIDE FOR Couples wishing to be married at Centennial United Church

This page is provided to assist you in your wedding plans. Feel free to contact the Minister or the Church Office if you have questions or need further information. [minister(at)Stayner.ca ; office(at)ucstayner.ca or 705 428-3811]

Often couples seeking to be married in the Church are not regular participants in the Church's life. Many couples see the occasion of their marriage as a time for re-thinking many things, including their relationship to the church, and the question of finding appropriate expression for the spiritual dimensions of their lives. We at Centennial would be happy to welcome you into our community if you are not already a part of it.

CENTENNIAL'S MARRIAGE POLICY

On February 4, 2007, Centennial United Church adopted the following Marriage Policy.

Couples may be married at Centennial where:

- 1a) At least one of the individuals is an active participant in the life and work of Centennial United Church (or a family member) may be married in the Centennial United Church sanctuary.
- 1b) If neither person is a participant in Centennial United Church, their names must be presented to the Membership, Pastoral Care and Communication Committee for approval.
- 2) The Minister may marry individuals outside of the sanctuary at his/her discretion.
- 3) Marriage preparation is a requirement of all couples planning to be married by the minister of Centennial United Church.

INTERVIEWS WITH THE MINISTER

All couples must meet with the minister for the purpose of filling out the Marriage Registration form, and making arrangements for the marriage service itself.

An important part of the pre-marriage interview(s) is the opportunity to discuss with the minister various important aspects of the marriage relationship. If you feel that more than one interview would be helpful, it will be arranged.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The **Marriage Licence** is obtained, for a fee, from a Municipal Clerk's Office anywhere in Ontario. Either bride or groom may make application for the licence. Proof of age of both individuals must be presented. The licence is valid for a period of 3 months from the date of issue. Persons under 18 years of age require written parental consent before the licence will be issued. The Licence should be brought to the church office as soon as possible to ensure prompt completion of marriage documents.

Divorced persons must provide an original copy of the divorce **decree absolute** to the Municipal Office before the marriage license will be issued.

Two adult witnesses, 18 years of age or over, must be present at the wedding service. They are usually the Best Man and Maid/Matron of Honour.

Provincial law forbids a minister to marry anyone who is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. **Witnesses must also not be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.**

THE WEDDING CEREMONY

The wedding ceremony is a service of worship and whatever the differences may be from one service to another, the mood of thankfulness to God for the gift of love is central. It is our hope that your wedding celebration will praise God while honouring your unique relationship.

The Minister is pleased to help you with all aspects of the wedding worship service.

MUSIC

The Centennial United Church Music Director is in charge of all music in the Church. Arrangements for wedding music **must** be made with her as soon as the time of the wedding has been determined. The Music Director is willing to assist you in your choice of music. If you wish to have someone else serve as organist or pianist, this must be cleared with the Music Director before arrangements are finalized.

If there is to be a soloist, you must ensure that he/she contacts the organist immediately to arrange rehearsal time.

The use of popular recorded music for the wedding service can only be accommodated if the Centennial United Church Sound Technician is available. If this is your choice of music for the wedding service, please discuss it with the Minister and Music Director.

FEES*

The fees for your wedding will be determined as follows:

| | Contribution to Centennial | Minister | Music Director |
|---|----------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Member of or Regular Contributor to Centennial | n/a | \$125.00 | \$125.00 |
| Non-member Small Wedding (under 25 people) | \$125.00 | \$125.00 | n/a |
| Non-member Large Wedding (25 or more people) | \$300.00 | \$125.00 | \$125.00 |
| Ceremony held somewhere other than Centennial | \$125.00 | \$125.00 | n/a |

Optional Services:

Centennial Sound Technician: \$20.00

If you wish to use the services of a soloist or other musicians, any fee or gift must be negotiated with and paid directly to them.

***Since the above are fees for service, they cannot be considered donations for the purposes of income tax. Any donation above the required fees will be considered as a charitable donation.**

Fees are payable upon booking. If desired, a deposit of \$50.00 may be made upon booking, and payment deferred until 2 weeks prior to the wedding date.

Fees may be paid in cash, or separate cheques should be made out to:

Centennial United Church - \$300.00, The Officiating Minister - \$125.00, The Music Director - \$125.00.

Payments may be made at the church office during office hours, or mailed to P. O. Box 385, Stayner, ON, L0M 1S0.

ARE YOU READY FOR MARRIAGE?

Every engaged couple dreams of the perfect marriage. All too often, however, misunderstandings arise which could have been avoided if each partner had given more thought, prior to marriage, to those factors which are essential to happiness. Pre-marital counselling provides an opportunity for learning how to understand and meet each other's needs, mental, emotional, and physical as well as for handling common practical problems.

In accordance with our marriage policy, Marriage Preparation is required for all couples planning to be married by the Minister of Centennial United Church. Please speak to the Minister for more information.

DECORATIONS

The sanctuary is decorated to help our worshipping congregation honour each church season. These decorations must remain undisturbed in the sanctuary and you are invited to decorate around them.

The purchase, installation and removal of flowers and other wedding decorations is the responsibility of the couple or their families. Candles may be used in the service. Pew decorations are allowed, providing they are attached by tying onto the pews. The use of nails, screws or adhesives is not permitted. Decorations must be removed from the church immediately after the wedding.

If you wish to leave your flowers in the Sanctuary after the wedding ceremony, they will be used to enhance Sunday services and then taken to someone ill in hospital or a local care facility. This practice is sincerely appreciated.

THE USE OF CONFETTI WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE CHURCH OR PROPERTY IS NOT PERMITTED.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The wedding ceremony is a service of worship. Please advise your guests that photography is not permitted during the wedding ceremony itself. Pictures may be taken during the bridal procession, the signing of the documents, and the recessional. Arrangements can be made to pose pictures in the Church following the ceremony if time permits.

VIDEO

Video taping must be done in a non-intrusive manner.

REHEARSAL

All but the simplest of weddings should be rehearsed. The rehearsal is generally held a day or two before the wedding. The following persons should attend: Bride, Groom, Groomsmen, Bridal Attendants, Ushers, Ring Bearer and Flower Girl, if any, and, if possible, the parents of Bride and Groom.

Members of the Wedding Party are requested to be on time for both the rehearsal and the wedding. On the day of the wedding, the ushers should arrive approximately 3/4 hour before the wedding; the Best Man and Groom, 10 -15 minutes before; and the Bride and her attendants should arrive 5 minutes early.

REHEARSAL TIME:

THE

RECEPTION

The minister will not attend your wedding reception unless specifically invited to do so. If you wish to have the minister attend, please send him/her a written invitation, as you would any other guest. He/She will attend if invited to do so, and if time and schedule allows. An invitation for the minister presupposes that the invitation also includes the minister's guest. The minister's attendance at the reception does not automatically mean that he/she will say the grace although he/she will generally be pleased to do so. Other persons, such as family members, might appreciate being asked to say the grace.

AFTER THE WEDDING

We at Centennial United Church look forward to a continuing relationship with you in your marriage and invite you to participate fully in our church life.

If, in the future, you wish to know more about church programmes which may be of special interest to you, or if you have personal needs with which we can help, please call the church office.

HAVE YOU CONTACTED THE MUSIC DIRECTOR?

Catherine Sage Dunlop: (705) 428-3667