

GSUC Council Approved Wedding Policy

JUNE 2018

(Prepared by Rev Dr. Peter Bartlett; IIM George St. UC)



GEORGE STREET UNITED CHURCH

25 Buchanan Street

St. John's NL A1C 0A4

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WEDDING POLICY, INFORMATION, AND FEES

1. Meetings with the Minister

To allow time for pre-marital counseling, and other adequate preparation, the church requires that the couple be in contact with the Minister early in your planning process. Your first meeting is an opportunity for you and the Minister to get to know one another and to hear your expectations for your wedding service. Couples will meet with the Minister four (4) times on average, before your wedding, and will correspond electronically as well.

2. The Marriage Ceremony

Creativity is welcomed, when preparing the wedding liturgy, however, there may be times/situations where some suggestions may not be consistent with Christian Worship norms. You are encouraged to discuss your ideas for your service when meeting with the Minister, as you work together to create a meaningful service that meets your expectations, and also reflects the ethos of the United Church of Canada.

3. Invited Clergy

George Street United Church understands that you may have a clergy person that has had a special influence in your life, and whom you may like to include in your Wedding Service. The Minister will discuss invited clergy requests during the first meeting. Once agreed, the Minister will extend the invitation to the clergy person to participate in the Wedding Service.

4. The Marriage License

You must have a marriage license in order to be married in Newfoundland and Labrador. The license is valid for **one month only**, and must be obtained at least eight working days before the marriage. You will need to contact City Hall for information about Marriage Licenses. Our George Street Church Administrator will complete the Marriage License content, as well is our Church Marriage Register, from the accurate and detailed information provided by you on GEORGE STREET UNITED CHURCH WEDDING INFORMATION SHEET. To ensure that all paperwork is complete in time, our Church Administrator requires that your Marriage License be delivered to the church office at least **four (4) working days** before your wedding day.

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5. Ministers' Right to Refuse To Marry

The Minister reserves the right to refuse to marry any couple for reasons of professional ethics, serious incompatibility of the couple, or failure of the couple to agree to the guidelines established by George Street United. The law also requires that officiating ministers refuse to marry a couple when there is suspicion of intoxication by way of alcohol and/or drugs.

The Minister of George Street United Church shall be responsible to perform all weddings approved by the Church Session. Circumstances rarely occur whereby the Minister becomes unavailable on the Wedding Day. However, in that instance, the Minister will arrange for a substitute Officiant.

6. Church Music

George Street United Church is blessed with a highly qualified Music Director (Organist), who reserves the first right of refusal for all weddings. If unavailable to play at your wedding, our Music Director is responsible to arrange a substitute. Music and instrumental selections for your wedding are to be coordinated with the George Street United Church Music Director, or designated substitute organist, and the Minister.

George Street United Church understands that you may have a musician whom you want to play at your wedding. If so, please make this request to the Minister during your first meeting. George Street Church policy requires, that our Music Director validate the gifts and skills of anyone seeing to play our church organ and/or grand piano.

7. Church Decorations

George Street United Church is not responsible for any decorations being placed in the church for weddings. You are welcome to have a decorator come to the church or decorate the church yourselves. You will need to schedule decorating with the Office Administrator, during regular office hours: 9:00 – Noon, Monday –Friday.

Confetti and rice are not permitted. Non-compliance will result in an extra cost to you for the cleaning of the carpets. Bubbles are acceptable, and we also allow the dropping of artificial rose petals at the entrance of the bridal party.

Wedding decorations must be removed the church directly after the wedding. Staff will not wait for someone to come back later in the day.

8. Wedding Bulletins

The Minister will assist you with your Wedding Service content. However, purchase of bulletin covers, formatting content and photocopying is your responsibility. Bulletins covers may be purchased through the United Church Resource Center, 320 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, NL at (709) 754-0386, or any number of local, and online retailers.

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9. Fee Structures

Weddings require additional work for our George Street United Church Staff, not covered by their regular salary. Therefore, remuneration for Staff services, and for the operation of the church, in support of your wedding is as follows:

*Use of Church	\$375.00
*Minister's Fee	\$150.00
*Caretaker's Fee	\$100.00
Organist's Fee	\$125.00

*Please note: Additional rehearsals will require extra payment. If there is a soloist who the organist must meet with, there is an extra charge of \$25 to be paid to the organist.

DEPOSIT – A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required at time of booking.

10. Payment of Fees

All fees are to be placed in separately marked envelopes and paid at the church office when you drop off your marriage license for completion, at least four (4) working days prior to your wedding.

If paying by cheque please make cheques payable to the following:

Minister (Rev Dr. Peter Bartlett) **\$150**

Church Fees (George St. United Church) **\$375**

Caretaker (Mr. Reg Rumsey) **\$100**

Organist Fee (Dr. Carolyn Sturge-Sparkes) **\$125**

For Weddings outside of the Church:

Some couples request offsite weddings, and Ministers may be amenable to officiate these service. The basic fee for offsite weddings is \$150 and is payable to the Minister. Any additional expenses incurred by the Minister, such as travel and accommodations, is also the couple's responsibility.