

Minnedosa United Church
www.minnedosauc.ca

GUIDELINES FOR WEDDINGS

Minnedosa United Church celebrates the opportunity to be involved with couples planning 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.

We affirm our acceptance of all human beings as persons made in the image of God regardless of their sexual orientation. Therefore, Minnedosa United Church Council has determined that it will approve marriages of same-sex couples to be performed in its sanctuary and off the premises by their minister.

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 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. Licences are available in Minnedosa from Janice Richards, cell phone # 868-9024.

You need to go together to obtain your license and you will need **one** of the following: Birth Certificate, Canadian Citizenship Certificate, Passport, Certificate of Child Born Abroad, Immigration papers, Canadian Armed Forces Identification or Indian Treaty Card. Or, you can take your Driver's License and any one of the following: Manitoba Health Card, Senior Citizen Card, Change of Name Certificate, Employee Card, or Social Insurance Card. If you are divorced, you will be required to produce a Certificate of Divorce or Decree Absolute. All of these have to be originals.

You also need to know the legal birth names and birthplaces of each of your parents.

The licence must be obtained at least 24 hours before the wedding, and must be used within 90 days from the date of issue. The cost is \$100.

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. It is preferred that these witnesses be at least 18 years of age.

THE WEDDING SERVICE

1. The minister will determine the order of worship, in consultation with you.
2. You are responsible for discussing music with the Minnedosa United Church organist. If you wish to have a soloist participate in the service you are responsible for arranging this.
3. Selections of music for solos or anthems should be chosen in consultation with the minister to ensure that they are appropriate for a service of Christian marriage.
4. The singing of one or more hymns by the congregation is an option for the service. There are many suitable hymns in our hymnbooks, *Voices United* and *More Voices*.
5. You may choose persons to read scripture or participate in other ways.
6. If you wish to have the Sacrament of Communion celebrated during the service, please discuss the matter with the minister.
7. There will be a rehearsal, normally the evening before the wedding. Everyone involved in the wedding should attend the rehearsal, including musicians, ushers, parents, and photographer.
8. If you choose to have bulletins, they can be arranged in consultation with the minister, who has responsibility for the order of service.
9. Photographs will be allowed only during the procession, recession, and signing of the documents. Video cameras are to remain in one spot throughout the service.
10. It is possible to involve another minister in the service. Please discuss this with the minister of Minnedosa United Church, who will issue the invitation on behalf of the Church Council.

COSTS RELATED TO YOUR WEDDING

The church has ongoing expenses related to the up-keep 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 office administrator prior to the rehearsal.

Use of Sanctuary & administrative fees (including plain paper bulletins) \$150
(The sanctuary holds approximately 150 people)

Care Taker \$100
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.

Minnedosa United Church Pianist/Organist \$100
The musician will be at the rehearsal and the service.

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 weekends for the planning sessions, the rehearsal and the service. Therefore, a monetary gift of appreciation is not required but would be acceptable. In this geographic area, \$200 is a standard amount.

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

These guidelines have been developed and approved by
the Council of Minnedosa United Church
March 2010, Revised September 2013, March 2015

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