

# Wedding Policy



**Trinity United Church**  
**North Bay, Ontario**

# Congratulations On Your Engagement!

We welcome your request to be married at Trinity United Church. It is our hope that the celebration of your wedding will be the beginning of a deeply meaningful relationship. With that in mind and with the desire to be of assistance to you in your planning, we have put together this booklet which contains relevant information that you will require. This booklet has been prepared to assist you in planning your wedding and to help you decide whether Trinity United Church is the appropriate venue for your wedding.

## Our Beliefs About Marriage

**We believe** that marriage is a sacred gift through which two people make promises to each other, to the community, and to God. As an act of faith and hope, men and women can enter this covenant of love with the intention of life-long permanence.

**We believe** that in Christian marriage two people make a covenant with one another and with God—affirming before family, friends and witnesses that their unity is a creation of God and is greater than the two individuals.

**We believe** that a wedding service at Trinity United Church is an important Christian religious ceremony, and not a social occasion with a religious touch. It is a service of worship in which vows are made, prayers are offered, Scripture is read, and God’s blessing is sought. It is, in fact, the celebration of a sacred rite.

United Church Ministers are not bound to preside over weddings upon request. Those for whom religious faith is not significant should arrange to be married in a civil ceremony. Our Minister may assist a couple in arranging a ceremony elsewhere.

## Application Process

It is essential to speak with the Minister well in advance of your desired date. Normally both partners are expected to be present at all meetings with the Minister. If you have booked your hall, ordered the cake, and sent out your invitations before booking the church and Minister, you may be disappointed.

Trinity’s Minister reserves the right to preside at all weddings in our sanctuary. Arrangements for another Minister at his/her request *or* yours will be dealt with via

Trinity's Minister and requires the approval of Trinity's Board. Please complete and return the Wedding Form in consultation with Trinity's office.

## The Marriage License

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It is your responsibility to obtain a marriage license. We expect you to bring your license to the church office *at least two weeks* before the wedding. In any case, you are legally required to obtain your license at least four days previous to your wedding day.

After the wedding ceremony, you will be presented with a marriage certificate by the church. The rest of the license is forwarded to the Registrar's office of the provincial government. Your marriage certificate is difficult to replace—please treat it with care.

Please be aware that the Marriage Act states, "No person shall . . . solemnize the marriage of any person whom s/he knows or has reasonable grounds to believe lacks capacity to marry by reason of being mentally ill or mentally defective or under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs." If any intended signatories to the marriage license are suspected of such, our minister is legally obliged not to proceed.

## Music

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Our policy is that our Minister of Music reserves the right to play at all weddings in the sanctuary. It is your responsibility to consult with the Minister of Music. You will need to discuss the choice of music, the participation of extra musicians, soloists, etc. The Minister of Music may require extra paid rehearsal time if soloists are to be used.

## Rehearsal

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Rehearsals will be planned for a time which is mutually agreeable to you, the musician(s), and the Minister. Because the Ministers have other commitments, it is expected that you will arrive promptly for rehearsals and all appointments.

All members of the wedding party, including photographers, readers, musicians, and parents (if they are participating), should be present at the rehearsal.

## Photographs

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Please advise your photographer (if you have one) and all attendees that picture-

taking with a flash is allowed only during the processional at the beginning of the service, while the register is being signed, and as the wedding party leaves the sanctuary. Photographs are not permitted during the service. The unobtrusive use of one video-camera may be possible after consultation with the minister.

## **Flowers and Candles**

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If you are having flowers, it is your responsibility to make all arrangements with the florist of your choice. Likewise for candles. If you require early access to the church for arranging your flowers and/or candles, please feel free to contact the church office.

## **Confetti, Rice, Bubbles**

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Confetti, rice, bubbles or birdseed are difficult to clean up. We therefore ask that you not use them inside the church premises.

## **Keep In Touch**

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Make sure that the Ministers and Secretary have your address and telephone number so that we can contact you should the need arise. Should any change in your plans develop, *please contact us.*

We hope that you will continue to be a part of Trinity United Church by attending services or becoming a member if you are not already. We try to keep in regular contact with our couples, and hope you will do the same.

## **Fees**

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The wedding fee covers the rehearsal, the use of the sanctuary, and the services of a minister, a musician, and a caretaker. A \$100 deposit will secure your booking of the space. It is expected that all remaining fees will be paid at least two weeks previous to your wedding date. Contact Trinity's office for other specifics.

*Thank you for inquiring with us about Christian marriage. We wish God's richest blessings for you and your family.*