

MARRIAGE POLICY
Forest Hill United Church
Fredericton, New Brunswick

*"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love."
- 1 Corinthians 13:13*

***We are very pleased to help you make preparations for your wedding
and to share in your special day! The following information is provided
by our Church Community to help you plan your ceremony.
May this be a holy time for you.***

Introduction

In the United Church of Canada, we affirm that marriage is a gift from God and a rich expression of love. Through the wedding ritual, two persons declare their intent to enter into a lifelong companionship by making promises to one another and to God about how to live in relationship.

For Christians, a wedding ceremony is a time of worship and celebration. We understand the marriage that follows to be filled with deep commitment and to be treated with great respect.

At Forest Hill United Church, all couples are welcome to be married, regardless of sexual orientation or background, so long as they meet the requirements of this policy.

Consultation

The first step in planning your wedding is to discuss your intentions with our Minister. You must meet with the Minister at least two times prior to your wedding and additional meetings may be required. If you do not live in or around Fredericton, arrangements can be made to meet online. In certain situations, our Minister may request that you also meet with a minister in your area.

The first meeting will give you an opportunity to reflect upon your relationship and to discuss your hopes and dreams for your future together. It will also give our Minister a chance to get to know you better. The second meeting will be a time to plan the details of the ceremony.

The Congregational Board of Forest Hill United Church will be informed by our minister of the dates and places that weddings are scheduled to take place.

Please set the date of your wedding with the Minister as soon as possible and before making any other arrangements to ensure availability. If our Minister is unable to officiate for any reason, you will be notified and arrangements will be made for another minister to conduct the wedding.

Paperwork

The marriage license must be given to the Minister as soon as it is available. Marriage licenses may be obtained from Service New Brunswick, which has a centre at 432 Queen Street in Fredericton. You will be charged a fee for the license. Please note that marriage licenses do expire. For more information, please visit <http://www.snb.ca>.

Other personal information (ex. birth dates, medicare numbers, parents' birthplaces, and addresses for two witnesses) will be collected by the Minister in order to complete the required paperwork. It will be kept confidential.

Music & Musicians

You may discuss your choices of songs, hymns, solos, instrumentals, recorded music or other musical offerings with the Minister to ensure that they are appropriate for your ceremony. It is your responsibility, however, to contact the Pianist and/or other musicians to confirm selections with them. Our Church Pianist should be the first person invited to play when piano music is requested.

Participants in the Ceremony

As you discuss the ceremony with our minister, you will discover that there are opportunities for friends or family members to be involved in a number of ways, such as lighting candles or reading scripture. During the ceremony, two witnesses 19 years or older are required to sign the documents.

It is helpful to select ushers to welcome guests. They should be at the wedding venue at least 30 minutes prior to the wedding. The rest of the wedding party should arrive at least 15 minutes beforehand.

The participation of another licensed clergyperson, who may be a member of your family or a close friend, is also a possibility. This may be arranged in consultation with our Minister, who we require to be the presiding minister at the ceremony.

Location

Your wedding can take place on or off Forest Hill United Church property. If you choose to get married in our church, we will help you make those arrangements. If you choose a different location, it is your responsibility to make the arrangements with the venue. It is strongly recommended that you ensure a microphone is available. If you plan to have your wedding outdoors, please reserve a rain location.

Our Church Building offers a multi-purpose space which can be arranged in various ways to suit your needs. However, the church building is the spiritual home for a worshipping community. Please do not remove the furnishings or wall hangings without permission. We ask that you not use confetti or rice inside or outside the building. Bubble mixture must be limited to outside for the safety of the guests and wedding party.

Wedding Programmes

If you would like to have wedding programmes, you will be responsible for having them prepared and printed. The Minister will provide you with the order of service to include in them.

Invitations

The street address for Forest Hill United Church is: 45 Kimble Court
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3B 6X5

Please remind your guests in your invitations that the church is a scent-free place of worship and that they should refrain from wearing perfumed products.

Rehearsal

A rehearsal is very important. Typically, this should be arranged with our Minister to take place on the day before your wedding. If possible, *all* those involved in the ceremony should attend. This includes attendants, readers, musicians, ushers, participating parents, children, and others. Rehearsals usually last about 45 minutes and should take place in the same location as the wedding.

Reception

If you would like the Minister to attend your wedding reception and/or rehearsal party, please let him/her know beforehand. If the Minister is expected to say Grace at a meal, please confirm this with her/him.

If desired, your wedding reception may take place at Forest Hill. Please call the Church Office to enquire about costs and to make arrangements.

Fees & Honoraria

Our Staff will offer its time and talent to ensure that your wedding is a meaningful and enjoyable event. Likewise, we will work to provide you with a sacred space for your special day. To honour the value of these services, we do charge fees for weddings. Fees are determined by our Congregational Board. They include use of space and the services of the Minister, Pianist and Custodian. Our Minister will provide you with the appropriate information.

***We hope that this information has been helpful to you.
If you have any other questions, please do let us know.***

***Policy approved by the Congregational Board, Forest Hill United Church, November 2005.
Policy approved by the Congregational Annual Meeting, Forest Hill United Church, Feb 2006.
Policy amended at Congregational Annual Meeting, Forest Hill United Church, Feb 2012.
Policy amended at Congregational Annual Meeting, Forest Hill United Church, Feb 2015.***