

Streetsville United Church Wedding Policy

Streetsville United Church:

Streetsville United Church is an open and welcoming Community of Faith. We are committed to being a welcoming church that is opposed to discrimination against any person, on any basis, and believe that all human beings are made in the image of God regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. We welcome all couples who demonstrate a genuine commitment to their faith, to the promises that they are being asked to make before God, and who wish to celebrate their marriage in a Christian Ceremony.

We describe the Covenant of Marriage as one of “our ministries” because we believe the Church is called to support and nurture all marriages. We also believe that to be married in God’s sanctuary is a privilege and not a right. Since it is a sacred place of worship, we affirm that the wedding service shall be Christian in its tone, reflecting the attitudes, the beliefs, and the principles of faith in Jesus Christ.

For Christians, our relationship with God and with each other is rooted in our understanding of Covenant. We know God as faithful, loving, compassionate and just. We are called to embody this in our relationships with each other.

Policy:

This policy applies to **ALL** wedding services held at Streetsville United Church

The wedding service will:

1. Include the ritual act of making a covenant of marriage, which will take place in the context of Christian worship in the presence of family, friends and God.
2. Include the couple exchanging vows to each other, in the presence of the community and God, promising to be faithfully committed to each other for as long as they both shall live. Couples should enter this covenant with faith, hope, and great joy; trusting in God’s grace and faithfulness to help them in this unique relationship.
3. Treat both partners in this covenant as equals, and the words of the service will reflect this.
4. Will be officiated by our Minister, although a guest minister may be invited to assist. Arrangements for a guest minister (relative or friend) must be made in consultation with the officiating minister.

5. Ceremonies will be held in the sanctuary. Offsite arrangements may be permitted in consultation with the minister.
6. It is the responsibility of the wedding couple and their guests to abide by all government and department of health regulations in place on the date of use. This includes but is not limited to; occupancy restrictions, social distancing requirements, the use of non-surgical facial masks etc.
7. A deposit of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) NON-REFUNDABLE, is required payable to the Streetsville United Church when your wedding date is confirmed.
8. In addition, a damage deposit of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) is required, payable to Streetsville United Church, when your wedding date is confirmed. The damage deposit will be returned by mail once the church's rental coordinator is able to confirm that no damage has resulted as a result of the use of the premise.
9. The use of confetti, rice, rose petals and other similar materials is strictly prohibited inside and outside of the church. Failure to abide by this condition will result in the forfeiture of the damage deposit.
10. Alcoholic beverages and smoking are strictly prohibited on the premises (inside and out).
11. Burning of candles is not permitted in any inside area of the premise.
12. Pew markers/bows – bows and pew markers are welcome, however, no adhesive materials are to be used in the process of fastening bows or other decorations in the sanctuary. Please note that if your wedding is being held during festive seasons such as Easter, Thanksgiving or Christmas, special decorations may already be in place in the sanctuary and are not to be removed.
13. To maintain the dignity and sanctity of worship in your wedding, we do not permit the taking of photographs during the religious service (the Minister will announce this after the bride processes to the front of the sanctuary). Photographs may be taken during the signing of the register, as you are announced as husband and wife and during the recession down the aisle to greet your guests.
14. Video-taping of the wedding ceremony is permitted. Arrangements for positioning of your official photographer/videographer are to be made in consultation with the Minister prior to the service as we do not wish for his/her movement to be distracting during the wedding ceremony.

At Streetsville we want to help couples celebrate their wedding day in a way that is meaningful, as life-changing vows are made before family, friends and God. To that end, The Church Council at Streetsville is providing the following information to assist couples with their preparations and provide answers to questions they might have.

Initial Arrangements

Couples should call our Church office to discuss possible wedding dates and times and affirm their connection with the church community. Our Office Administrator will refer your request to our Minister who will confirm availability to conduct the service or suggest alternatives. Times will also be suggested for the rehearsal and pre-wedding meetings. Weddings can be on any day of the week except Sundays, as long as the Church and Minister are available.

Preparation

Once the wedding date has been confirmed by our Office Administrator, meetings will be set up for you to meet with our Minister in person at least on one occasion. At this meeting you will discuss the meaning of a Christian marriage, and decide on the details of the wedding service and rehearsal. Sample services will be provided by email ahead of time for you to review, to assist with your planning.

There is sufficient flexibility to allow each couple to express their preferences and to develop the liturgy and vows in a personal way within the context of United Church guidelines. Those with a desire for ecumenical or interfaith expressions should discuss this with our minister.

Legal Documents

License – To be married, you will need to purchase an Ontario Marriage License. It is valid for three months and must be obtained at least three days before the wedding. Please bring this to the church no later than your rehearsal date.

Banns – If both of you are church members, and are in the habit of attending worship, Marriage Banns may be published in place of purchasing a license. The Banns (intention to marry) must be proclaimed during the worship service at the church of the bride and of the groom for the three Sundays prior to the wedding.

Music

Our Office Administrator will provide you with the name and phone number of our organist should those services be required. You should contact the organist one month prior to the service to discuss your choice of music. Alternatively, you may wish to have another musician play for part or all of your service (friend, relative or such) and this is not discouraged. The piano in our sanctuary is available to be played by visiting musicians or they may bring their own instruments. Arrangements should be made directly with these individuals to book their time and discuss any applicable fees.

If you wish to include a vocal or instrumental solo in your wedding, they are most welcome. Again, arrangements should be made directly with these individuals to book their time and discuss any applicable fees. Our Minister/organist should be made aware of these arrangements to ensure solos are inserted in appropriate places in the service and that the organist is aware if additional practice time is required with the soloist.

All types of music are welcome in the marriage ceremony to make it uniquely yours, however, our Minister has been given the right to disallow a piece if deemed to be inappropriate for use in the sanctuary or not befitting the sanctity of the wedding service.

Bulletins

If you wish a bulletin (Order of Service) to be printed for your guests our Office Administrator will gladly assist in the bulletin's preparation. There is an additional fee for this service.

Wedding Rehearsal

If you are planning a formal wedding, a rehearsal likely will be required. If so, it is desirable to have all members of the wedding party present, including the parents of the bride and groom. You will walk through the ceremony from start to finish and it is a good opportunity for those in your wedding party who are not familiar with Streetsville United to feel more at home in our church building.

Communion

You may request that communion be served at your wedding as part of the service. This may be offered to the bride and groom, the entire wedding party or all guests attending the service. Please advise the Minister if you wish to celebrate communion so arrangements can be made with our Worship team to prepare the elements.

Church Hall and Kitchen Usage

Our Church Hall and Kitchen facilities are available for rental if you wish to have your reception in the same building as your service. Please understand that outside catering would be required and the church does not have a license to serve alcoholic beverages. Our Office Administrator will provide you with more information regarding fees, decorating, contracts, etc. upon request.

Decorations

Flowers – Arrangements should be made to have flowers delivered to the church one (1) hour before the service (if fresh) or may be placed in the sanctuary at the rehearsal (if artificial). Flowers can be moved to the reception hall or may remain in the sanctuary for Sunday worship. If you wish to leave your flowers in the sanctuary, please notify the Church Office so we can acknowledge this in our weekly church bulletin.

The Wedding Day

We request that Ushers arrive at least thirty minutes prior to the wedding or earlier if guests from out-of-town are expected. Bridesmaids should arrive ten minutes before the wedding is to commence. We will allocate adequate space for your entire wedding party to meet in the church for last minute preparations.

This Policy supersedes and replaces any previous approved policy

Appendix

Fees:

The base cost of your wedding at Streetsville United will be one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).

This includes;

- the Minister's fee
- the use of our sanctuary for rehearsal (two (2) hours maximum), the evening prior to the wedding
- the use of our sanctuary for the wedding service (four (4) hours maximum)
- normal cleaning after the service

Additional Fees (as required):

Organist	\$250.00	(or as arranged with musician)
Office	\$75.00	(if bulletins are requested)
Audio/Visual	\$150.00	(if more than normal amplification is required)

We ask your co-operation in the following ways:

- 1) A deposit of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) NON-REFUNDABLE is required payable to Streetsville United Church when your wedding is confirmed to secure the services of the Minister
- 2) A damage deposit of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) is required payable to Streetsville United Church when your wedding is confirmed. The damage deposit is refundable provided written notice of cancellation is received thirty (30) days prior to the wedding.
- 3) The damage deposit will be returned by mail once our Rental Coordinator is able to confirm that no damage has resulted as a result of the use of the premise.
- 4) A deposit of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) NON-REFUNDABLE payable to Streetsville United Church when your wedding is confirmed is required for the organist and for the use of the sanctuary.
- 5) All remaining fees should be at the Church office no later than thirty (30) days before the wedding (earlier if you wish).
- 6) Fees should be in the form of cash currency or cheques made out to Streetsville United Church

As a Christian community, Streetsville United Church is delighted to welcome you, your family and friends into our fellowship. We are honoured to participate in your wedding service as an expression of your faith and God's love.