

Dublin Street United Church

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Preparation for Marriage

Wedding Information Brochure

To the Marrying Couple:

You have come to the point in your relationship where you have chosen to make a commitment to each other in marriage. Congratulations! Dublin Street United Church is honoured whenever we are invited to be part of this celebration and commitment.

What follows is a brief outline of our understanding of marriage before God and some practical considerations that we have found to be important in planning and shaping your wedding day. We hope that this information pamphlet and our interviews with you will help to make this time as easy and joyful as possible. Dublin Street United Church has spent considerable time over the past few years considering carefully and prayerfully what it believes about marriage. You might wish to look at our Marriage Guidelines on our website (under Dublin at a Glance/Life's Celebrations), especially if you come from a different tradition.

We do not require that you be members of the congregation to marry here, but we invite you to join us for worship services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Attending services may help you to be more comfortable in the sanctuary and with the staff and you may feel so much at home in Dublin Street United Church that you will wish to consider becoming part of our fellowship after your marriage.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call. We are happy to talk to you at any point along this joint journey.

Rev. Bruce Dickson

Marriage Preparation Courses

There are many details in the planning of a wedding. Sometimes, however, couples can get so focused on the preparations for the wedding day that they miss the preparation required for a lifetime of marriage together. We would urge you to spend time planning for both.

One simple beginning to this important preparation and to moving to a deeper place in your relationship is a marriage preparation course. Marriages today face many challenges. The evidence of failure is all around us and touches many families and children. Every couple must find help and resources as they commit to a lifetime of growing together. We know that these courses are a good beginning and are not only helpful and informative but also fun.

Dublin Street United Church itself does not offer these courses. We have found that others have the experience and expertise to offer an excellent course. Your family or friends may have experienced a great course offered by a church or organization. Use your network to find a course that is excellent and excites you. Over the years we have directed couples to organizations that offer informative and affordable courses throughout the region. See <http://www.marriageprep.com>

The Ceremony

The ceremony is at the heart of any wedding – the time when you stand before family and friends and make vows to each other that will shape your relationship. In choosing to have your wedding in the church, you are choosing to have a worship service. This means that you are calling God to be a witness to your vows and asking for God's wisdom and blessing as well as that of your community.

When you meet with the minister officiating at your service, you will go over the service. Together we will try to shape and personalize the service so it has integrity and meaning and will really feel like your service before God.

Music for the Wedding

What would a wedding day be without music? Music is central to our worship in the United Church. We encourage each couple to meet with our Director of Music Ministry to plan the music for your wedding day. You can choose the pipe organ or grand piano to lead or accompany music in your ceremony. Musical numbers by friends or relatives are welcome. Our Director of Music Ministry will be happy to outline the possibilities available to you. The Director of Music Ministry does not attend rehearsals.

Occasionally couples wish to use pre-recorded music in the ceremony. Our belief is that worship is a live event: it involves those who are present bringing their praise and offering their gifts before God, therefore we do not include pre-recorded music in our services.

The times when music is typically used during the service are:

1. The Prelude – approximately 15-20 minutes before the ceremony begins. Selections are usually from the repertoire of the organist or pianist.
2. The Processional and Recessional – couples should meet with the organist to make their selections.
3. Signing the Register – the time necessary for this function provides an opportunity for a musical offering by the organist or other musicians.
4. Hymns – the inclusion of hymns within the service especially suits those whose background makes congregational singing essential to their celebration.

Note: Vocal solos or instrumental offerings are frequently inserted at the signing of the register or between the prelude and processional.

Finally, because your wedding is first and foremost a service of worship, we would ask that show tunes and popular songs (however meaningful they may be for you) be saved for your reception, where they can be heard and enjoyed properly.

License

In Canada, ministers perform not only a religious ceremony before God, but they also act on behalf of the Province of Ontario to have the marriage recognized by the state. The Province requires a license which must be obtained prior to the wedding and is valid for 90 days from the date of issue. Licenses are normally available at municipal offices throughout Ontario. In Guelph you can obtain a license at the City Hall on Carden Street. Before visiting City Hall it would be wise to check out the requirements either by phone or on the City of Guelph website at <http://guelph.ca/living.cfm>

Ministers

We appreciate arrangements being made well in advance. This not only ensures a mutually acceptable time for the wedding, but affords us the opportunity to meet with you to discuss wedding plans and marriage expectations. We like to feel we are marrying friends, not strangers; we are interested not just in the wedding, but in the two individuals who are going to share in the creation of a marriage.

If you wish to have another minister participate in the ceremony, please make your request known to us so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

Photographs and Videos

Since a wedding ceremony is an act of worship, we request that there be no flash pictures during the ceremony. A professional photographer may take time exposures from the balcony, if done quietly. Under no circumstances do we allow people to move about the sanctuary taking pictures as it is too disruptive.

Note: Professional photographers are requested to speak to the minister before the wedding.

We do permit videos to be taken during the ceremony if the videographer remains in one place during the ceremony. Videos can be taken either from the balcony or inconspicuously from the side of the sanctuary.

Church Caretakers

We have a team of weekend caretakers. One will be present to help with your set up and be present at the wedding to help ensure that the ceremony runs smoothly.

Since most weddings take place on Saturday afternoons, please remember that it is necessary for the Sanctuary to be left in proper condition for Sunday worship.

Flowers and Candelabra

You are welcome to place flowers in the sanctuary and bows on the pews. The church has a candelabra that is available upon request. (There is an added fee of \$15 for use of the candelabra, to cover the cost of candles.)

Confetti

The use of confetti, rice, rose petals or bird seed in the church and on the church grounds is not permitted.

Summary of our Fee

The Dublin Street United Church Council has set a flat fee of \$750 for weddings in the Church and we believe this fee fairly reflects our costs. This fee includes all aspects of the wedding – services of the Minister, including a minimum of two meetings, the rehearsal and the wedding itself; services of the Director of Music Ministry, including any meetings to discuss and choose music; services of the Office Administrator for arranging the necessary paperwork and the use of the church, and services of the Sexton for setting up and attending both the rehearsal and the ceremony. As a welcoming congregation to all couples, this fee is charged for all weddings at Dublin Street United Church.

A non-refundable deposit of \$150.00 is required at the time of booking the wedding. The balance is due and payable six weeks in advance of the wedding date, together with the Marriage License. Please make cheques payable to Dublin Street United Church.