

Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church
1 Ratchford St. Amherst, Nova Scotia B4H 3Z5

Wedding Guidelines

Thank you for inquiring about celebrating your marriage at Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church. The following information is provided to assist you in planning your wedding. We want to help you prepare for both your wedding and your marriage. We hope that your wedding day, and your continuing relationship will be blessed and filled with love, joy and meaning.

This is what we believe about the Covenant of Marriage:
"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 own relationships with each other.

We welcome everyone to celebrate their union of love at TSSUC regardless of your religious background, sexual orientation, or being divorced.

If you are not presently part of a church family and are living in our area, we would welcome you here at Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church on Sunday mornings at 10:30a.m.

In light of this understanding of the Covenant of Marriage, the Worship Committee of Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church adopts the following guidelines for conducting marriages:

Requesting a Wedding

After reading these guidelines you are invited to contact the minister to discuss the date, time, and place you desire for your wedding service. **Please do not make any other arrangements until you have confirmed that the minister and the church are available.**

Each couple seeking to be married should meet with the minister three times for marriage preparation. All names of marriage candidates are brought before the Worship Committee of Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church after the Minister has met with you and has agreed to preside at your wedding.

Presiding

It is expected that the minister of Trinity-St. Stephen's will preside at the marriage. Should you desire another clergy person to assist, please notify the minister of Trinity-St. Stephen's well in advance so that this might be considered in the preparations.

Music

Once your wedding date has been confirmed it is the couple's responsibility to contact the church Director of Music to arrange for organ or piano music to be played at your service. All music chosen must be appropriate and approved by the minister. Please notify the Director of Music if you would like to have a soloist sing during your ceremony (paid at your own expense). If you wish to have a guest organist of your own choosing, you will need to obtain permission, in advance by the Director of Music.

Marriage License

In Nova Scotia a minister is permitted to solemnize a marriage only after the couple has obtained a marriage license. These can be obtained at an Access Nova Scotia location. More information about Marriage licenses can be found at <https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-marriage-licence> Once obtained, this license should be given to the church secretary as soon as possible.

Photography

Since this is a worship service, your guests will be asked to respect the solemnity of the worship. Photos may be taken by your guests during the processional and recessional. Where there is an official photographer, it is suggested that they attend the rehearsal to become familiar with the space and learn of any restrictions.

Decorations

Arrangements for delivery of flowers or decorations must be made with the Church Office. The sanctuary is usually available the day before the wedding, please contact the office about decorating times. When decorating church pews please use only fishing line, clear thread, or elastics to attach your decorations. Absolutely no tacks, nails, glue, or tape.

Please no confetti, rice, or rose petals, on church property.

Honorarium

Director of Music /Organist - \$150.00
(Includes preparation and wedding service)

Custodian - \$75.00
(Includes preparation, clean-up, and sound for rehearsal/wedding.)

Minister - \$250.00
(Includes meeting with couple, planning service, leading rehearsal and wedding service.)

Church Facility - \$100.00
(Covers the ongoing cost of maintaining the building)

**Please note that weddings normally occur on Saturday (days off) and are considered above and beyond the normal expectations for our employees.*

Our minimum honorarium of \$575.00 is a much appreciated gift! An off site ceremony suggested honorarium is \$250.00. Please pay at the church office before the date of your rehearsal. We accept cash, credit card or cheque (payable to TSSUC).

Church office: Kathy Douglas
902-667-8483
Email: office@tssuc.com

Minister: Rev. Natasha Pearen
902-614-0716 (Cell)
minister@tssuc.com

Organist: Jeff Joudrey
902-889-6299
jeffjoudrey@gmail.com

All decisions regarding conduct of marriage services using the above guidelines will be at the discretion of the Minister in consultation with the Worship Committee.

*Approved October 21st, 2008
Revised in 2014
Revised in 2019*