

A Celebration of Christian Marriage



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Office hours: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon Tue. - Fri.*

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COUPLES CONSIDERING MARRIAGE AT GBUC

- Express your Christian understanding of marriage
- Make promises to each other for life
- Commit to solving problems together
- Invited to be part of the GBUC family

THE FOLLOWING ARE CONSIDERATIONS FOR BOTH THE COUPLE AND GBUC

- Couples are to have involvement in a United Church either in Grand Bend or elsewhere
- Couples who have no involvement with a United Church will be considered by GBUC Council
- Couples can be either heterosexual or same sex.

PREPARATION

- Marriages consume twelve hours of work for the Minister
- Make plans at least a month in advance
- Meet with the Minister to discuss issues that affect life together
- Develop communication and conflict resolution
- The couple has an opportunity to explore their personal history
- The couple has a resource person to whom they might turn for help.

PLANNING THE SERVICE WITH THE MINISTER

- Choose banns or marriage license
- A license is obtained from a municipal office anywhere in Ontario and is valid for three months
- If previously divorced, a certificate of divorce is required in order to obtain a license
- Wedding bulletins, scriptures, music are available
- Services can be outside during the summer
- Other clergy may assist. Discuss with the Minister of GBUC
- Young children are great to have in a wedding party. Patience with them is important.

REHEARSAL

- Include the entire wedding party and parents
- Include guest organists, soloists etc
- Bring marriage license.

THE WEDDING SERVICE

- It is a worship service
- The Minister will assist with scriptures, prayers, vows
- Music should accentuate the reverence of the service. Some popular songs are welcome
- Consult the Music Director for musical selections, solos, guest musicians
- Families may wish to supply candles to be lighted in honour of the families involved
- Wedding service cannot legally occur if either partner is under the influence of alcohol or drugs

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DECORATIONS

- Make arrangements through the office for a time to decorate
- Decorations may be attached with elastic bands, or plastic ties, but not with masking tape or tacks.
- Deliver flowers to the church one hour before the service or by arrangement with the office
- GBUC is scent-free. Flowers are to be unscented or low-scented
- Flowers may be left in the sanctuary for Sunday worship

AUDIO VISUAL

- Guests may photograph the processional, signing of the register and recessional.
- Official photographer is to be advised to photograph the service so as not to disrupt service
- Video tape service from a designated spot
- Photos in the sanctuary must be dignified
- Arrangements can be made in advance to have posed photographs following the service

TIME TO ARRIVE AT WEDDING SERVICE

- Ushers 40 minutes in advance
- Groom and Best Man 30 minutes in advance
- Bridal party 5 minutes in advance

CONFETTI/RICE/BIRDSEED - None anywhere on church property

CELEBRATION GIFT - The couple may wish to consider a voluntary gift in celebration of this event. Whatever amount is given helps God's ministry to continue through GBUC. A tax receipt is given for all gifts of \$10.00 or more.

FEES - In consultation with the Minister the couple will have a good idea of the fees involved. Prior to the wedding the couple will receive a letter from GBUC Council confirming the fees that apply to them and the total amount due. A cheque or cash for the total is due at the church office (mailed or delivered) prior to the wedding rehearsal.

FEE STRUCTURE

- Church – in sanctuary or outside Green Cathedral (custodial charge included) \$300
- Off-sight ceremony \$200
- Minister: This is the minimum – couple may wish to increase this amount \$200
- Music Director \$150
- Music Director to accompany guest soloist \$ 50
- Sound system coordinator (optional inside, required outside in Green Cathedral) \$ 50
- Wedding Service Program \$ 50