

Harriston United Church
is a community of faith demonstrating God's love as we
"Hear The Word, Catch The Spirit & Live The Faith".

*We witness to Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.
Finding ourselves in a world of beauty and mystery,
of living things, diverse and interdependent,
of complex patterns of growth and evolution,
of subatomic particles and cosmic swirls,
we sing of God the Creator,
the Maker and Source of all that is.
Each part of creation reveals unique aspects of God the Creator...*

(A Song of Faith, the United Church of Canada © 2006)

Harriston United Church Marriage Policy

Harriston United Church celebrates the opportunity to be involved with couples seeking marriage in the context of Christian worship. We welcome inquiries from all couples wishing to be married by our minister.

The wedding service, whether held in our church building or at another location, is a service of worship, designed to focus on God and the Christian understanding of marriage. It emphasizes love and marriage as gifts of God. All who gather for this service give thanks to God for these gifts and listen for God's Word through scripture and reflection. Wedding couples respond to God's Word by exchanging vows which reflect their commitment to one another; one that is deep and lifelong. Those gathered also respond to God's Word through prayers for help and guidance.

Marriage Preparation

To begin making arrangements for your wedding, please contact our minister at (519) 338-2734. Once a request for a wedding has been received by the minister, the minister will have an initial conversation with you, usually by phone. Your request is then passed on to the church Session for approval. Please make your request to be married as soon as you are able.

Plan to meet with the minister at least twice before the set date of the wedding. These meetings will allow the minister and couple an opportunity to get to know one another and to discuss the specifics of the wedding service. As well, the minister will encourage you to think and talk about life following the wedding ceremony, and will offer resource information that might be helpful to you as you prepare for this change in your lives.

It is strongly recommended that all couples go through a marriage preparation program. These sessions will focus on communication skills and understanding some of the realities of the joys and challenges of married life. Our minister will be pleased to recommend a program for you to participate in.

Marriage License

A marriage license must be applied for by the couple. It is valid for 90 days and should be obtained at least two weeks before the wedding. This can be done at the Town of Minto office located at 5941 Highway #89.

Guest Ministers

If you are planning that another minister will take part in your wedding ceremony along with our resident minister, you need to discuss this first. It is the policy of Harriston United Church that our resident minister officiates at all services of worship.

Music and Musicians

Either live music or recorded music (CDs) may be used during your wedding ceremony. The church requests that music selected for the wedding ceremony reflect the meaning and purpose of the occasion. The minister will be able to assist with music suggestions. All music must be approved by the minister.

It is the policy of Harriston United Church to have our organist play.

Photography

Due to the sacred nature of the ceremony, no flash photography is allowed during the wedding service. However, photographs may be taken prior to the actual service, during the processional, signing the register and the recessional. An official photographer is allowed to take several pictures (non-flash) during the service from the back of the church, and to come forward for a photo of the signing of the register. Special photos may be posed at the end of the service, if the photographer wishes to do so. Please limit this time to a maximum of 30 minutes.

Videotaping of the entire service is permitted upon consultation with the minister. The camera must be kept stationary in a designated location.

* Photographers and Videographers are requested to speak with the Minister prior to the service.

Wedding Programs

Should you choose to use a "wedding program", covers may be obtained at any Christian book store. Printing may be arranged at any photocopier firm (i.e. Staples). This is left to your discretion and in your hands. Contents of the bulletin (prior to final printing) must be approved by the Minister.

Decorations

The decoration of the church may be done at your rehearsal or on the morning of your wedding. Please make these arrangements through the church office or with the minister at your last meeting. Florists must call the church to arrange for delivery and set up of floral arrangements if they want to do this at a time when the church is normally closed

Candles

If you wish to use candles for decoration or as a part of the wedding service you must provide your own or arrange for a florist to do so. Some couples use a family candle or a unity candle as part of their ceremony. This is also your responsibility to provide.

Confetti

Harriston United Church, being concerned about the environment, does not allow the use of confetti, rice, etc. whether inside the church or outside on the church property. Bubbles may be used but only outside.

Accessibility

For the convenience of you and your guests, Harriston United Church is accessible. Guests wishing to use the lift should use the entrance on John Street. The lift is located just inside the door.

The Rehearsal

All members of the wedding party, ushers, the parents of the couple, and anyone who is reading should be present for the rehearsal. It is also often helpful to have the photographer/ video camera person at the rehearsal if possible. The rehearsal usually takes approximately one hour and it is *important* that everyone be on time.

The minister is in charge at the rehearsal and will explain the procedure to be followed in detail. The evening before the wedding is normally the time for the rehearsal. Rehearsal parties are normally held *after* the rehearsal.

Promptness at the Ceremony

Ushers should be at the church at least 30 minutes before the service is to start. The couple and their respective attendants should arrive 15 minutes early. This allows time to relax and prepare. If a delay does arise, please notify the minister immediately.

Out of respect for your guests, the wedding should begin on time!

Fees:

Use of sanctuary	\$150.00
Minister	\$200.00
Organist, plus \$50.00 for rehearsal	\$125.00
Caretaker	\$75.00
Sound System Operator	\$50.00

If a wedding will take place offsite, round trip mileage will also be charged at \$0.41/km for both the rehearsal and wedding.

Please ensure all payments are received at the church office no later than two weeks before the wedding.

Harriston United Church will be compensated by the marriage parties for any damages incurred.

Approved by the Official Board of Harriston United Church, June 2014