

## **Wilmot United Church**

473 King Street, Fredericton, NB, E3B 1E5

Wilmot United Church Marriage Policy (2016)

**\*At Wilmot United Church, on the corner of King and Carleton in Fredericton, New Brunswick, we believe all are loved by God. In response to God's abundant love, many of us fall so deeply in love with one other that we want to be joined in marriage. As a congregation of The United Church of Canada, our ministers celebrate marriage in the context of a broad and accepting Christian community of faith.**

We are open to celebrating the marriage of :

Regular church-goers and those who rarely attend,  
Previously divorced people,  
Couples of different religions,  
Couples of different gender,  
Couples of the same gender

We believe God desires loving relationships to be faithful, responsible, just, healing and sustaining of the couple and those around them. We rejoice along with God in the wonderful opportunity we have to share with couples in the celebration of their marriage!

When you contact Wilmot United Church to discuss the plans for your wedding, the following information and guidance will be of help with your planning.

**Purpose:** This marriage policy

- Affirms our principle beliefs and values on Christian marriage
- Defines the criterion for marriage at Wilmot United Church (WUC), and
- Describes the considerations and responsibilities for approval of marriage requests.

**The Wilmot United Church Affirmations on Marriage:**

*(adopted in whole or in part from The United Church of Canada Marriage Policy)*

**We affirm:**

- that marriage is a gift of God through which Christians make a covenant with one another and with God. In marriage we offer one another promise of lifelong companionship and commitment.
- that this unity is a creation of God and is greater than the two individuals. Marriages in WUC will be within the context of Christian worship.
- our responsibility to support those entering into covenant relationship with one another.
- an inclusive approach to marriage requests for those who meet the legal requirements for marriage and the criterion for marriage at WUC as stated in this policy.

## **Criteria for Marriage Service at Wilmot United Church:**

1. Couples who wish to be married at WUC must agree to have a marriage service consistent with a service of Christian worship.
2. All couples requesting marriage at WUC are expected to participate in marriage preparation.
3. Dates for marriage services will be dependent on minister availability.

## **Processes for Marriage Requests:**

1. All marriage requests are forwarded to WUC clergy for initial discernment.
2. After initial discernment the WUC clergy will present/recommend appropriate marriage requests to the worship committee.\* (Note A minister is not obliged to recommend any marriage request or to perform any marriage.)
3. Approval for all marriages conducted by Wilmot clergy or within the WUC building must be reviewed by Worship Committee which will make recommendations to WUC council.
4. It is our hope that couples married at WUC will remain active in the life of the church community.
5. Additional considerations:
  - a. All applicants must meet the criteria as defined in this policy
  - b. WUC clergy will be present at all marriages recorded in the church records.
  - c. Worship committee must approve the participation of clergy from another faith community in the marriage service.
  - d. Requests for marriages outside the sanctuary which are to be registered in WUC records must be approved by the worship committee.
  - e. \*Any clergy who need a special licence to perform a marriage must receive and send written permission from clergy/worship committee/council (from the church where the marriage is to be registered), to the secretary of Presbytery.

## **Fees:**

- Marriages of members and adherents constitute part of the pastoral care of the congregation. Facilities and ministerial services for marriages are provided free of charge as part of that care.
- All other marriages approved by the Worship Committee will be charged a fee per the current "Use of Facilities" fee structure.