

Wilmot United Church

473 King Street, Fredericton, NB, E3B 1E5

Wilmot United Church Marriage Policy – **March 2026**

***At Wilmot United Church (WUC), 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 (UCC), 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, 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.
- 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 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. Dates for marriage services will be dependent on minister availability.

Processes for Marriage Requests:

1. All marriage requests are forwarded to the Chair of Worship Committee for initial discernment.
2. After initial discernment with the WUC clergy, the Chair of Worship Committee will recommend appropriate marriage requests to the full 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 must be reviewed by Worship Committee, which will make recommendations to WUC council.
4. Additional considerations:
 - a. All applicants must meet the criteria as defined in this policy.
 - b. An approved Minister registered in New Brunswick must be present and marriages are recorded in the Wilmot Marriage Record book. Should a temporary license be required, an application can be made through the UCC Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council.¹ ■
 - 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.

Fees:

All marriages constitute part of the pastoral care of the congregation.

Executive or Worship Committee has the authority to waive wedding fees under special circumstances in consultation with the minister.

Fees are to be paid two (2) weeks in advance of the wedding date.

Individual cheques are made out to the Minister, Organist and Sexton. All other fees are paid directly to the church.

- \$350 Minister, \$250 Organist, \$100 Sexton
- \$400 rental of sanctuary, \$150 livestream, \$150 sound

1 <https://ucceast.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/FSLDW-Licence-to-Marry-Application-2024.pdf>