

Marriage Policy for Mount Royal United Church

Theological Rationale

"On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples..." John 2:1-2

We know from the gospel accounts that Jesus attended at least one wedding - and that he had quite an impact while he was there. Following his example, we welcome the opportunity to participate in your wedding, and rejoice with you that you have made the decision to commit your lives to each other in the house of God.

Purpose

This marriage policy:

- Affirms our principle beliefs and values on Christian marriage
- Defines the criterion for marriage at Mount Royal United Church, and
- Describes the considerations and responsibility for approval of marriage requests.

Our expectations

Marriages within Mount Royal United Church will be within the context of Christian worship.

We expect that you have chosen to be married in our church because

- your faith is important to you;
- you understand your marriage commitment as a covenant (promise) between yourselves and God.
- you might like to build a relationship with us.

Process for Marriage Requests

1. All marriage requests are forwarded to Mount Royal United Church clergy for initial discernment.

2. After initial discernment the Mount Royal United Church clergy will present or recommend appropriate marriage requests to the Worship Committee. Upon approval, the recommendation from the Worship Committee will be forwarded to Council. (Note: minister is not obliged to recommend any marriage request or to perform any marriage.)

3. Council is charged with the duty/responsibility "to have oversight of the spiritual interests of the Pastoral Charge" (The Manual {of the United Church of Canada} 2013, #5.9.1, page 31). Therefore approval for all marriages conducted by Mount Royal United Church clergy or within the MRUC building must be granted by Council.

4. It is our hope and expectation that couples married at MRUC will remain active in the life of our community.

5. Additional considerations:

- All applicants for marriage must meet the criterion as defined in this policy.
- Council must approve the participation of clergy from another faith community in the marriage service.
- Clergy from other Pastoral Charges in New Brunswick must have written permission from MRUC clergy and Council to record the marriage in our Record of Marriages book.
- Requests for marriages outside the sanctuary must be agreed to by the clergy and approved by Council.
- Clergy from out of province or retired clergy, who need a special license to perform a marriage, must receive and send written permission from clergy and Council (from the church where the marriage is to be registered), to the secretary of Pastoral Relations/Pastoral Oversight Committee of Chignecto Presbytery.

Fees

All marriages approved by session will be charged fees as per the current fee structure.

Fees must be submitted to the church office no later than Thursday at noon in the week prior to the week of the marriage ceremony.

Policy of MRUC Worship Committee, Approval date **September 17, 2013**

Guidelines for Church Rental For Mount Royal United Church – 2013

Weddings

Minister	\$150
Organist	\$125
Custodian (Sanctuary)	\$75
(Hall & Sanctuary)	\$200
Soloist (negotiable)	\$75 (if supplied by Mount Royal)
Use of Sanctuary	\$200
Use of Hall	\$200 plus UCW charge

Funerals

Minister	nil
Organist	\$125
Custodian	\$50 if the hall is used
Soloist	\$50 per soloist
Sanctuary	nil
Hall	\$50 plus UCW charge

Youth Groups No Charge

Charitable Groups \$100

Profitable Groups and Other Organizations

Sanctuary	\$200
Hall	\$200

Fees for the sanctuary and hall are subject to negotiation with the Rental Committee to be comprised of: the Organist, Chair of Maintenance, Chair of Personnel and Chair of Council. Any 3 of the above are required to make a decision on a particular request.
(revised Jan. 22/13)