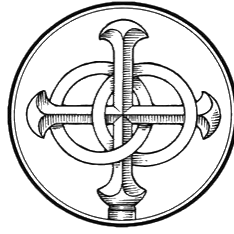


Wedding Information for Couples



Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry

Congratulations on your decision to be married! We are delighted that you are exploring sharing your special day with us, and hope that this information will enable you to make the best use of your time in preparation for the special day. This brochure is designed to provide information about the spaces and services we provide, as well as providing information about any costs that you will need to consider in your planning.

We are an Ecumenical Shared Ministry between the United Church of Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada, which means we offer you a rich and varied selection of liturgical options to enhance your wedding ceremony.

1. Marriage Requests

Our marriage policy states that: *"Currently all marriage services solemnized by our minister and held in the Neepawa United Church are at the discretion of the governing boards of Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry, which will sanction the use of the Neepawa United Church for a marriage service of any couple regardless of gender provided the couple fulfills the requirements and marriage preparations necessary for all couples."*

Requests for weddings will be brought first to the church's Worship Committee and then to the governing boards, and this is normally not done until after the couple meets with our minister, so it is a good idea to contact us well in advance of the wedding date.

2. Use of the Church Facility

Sanctuary: Within the Christian Church, weddings are reverent occasions of worship. The service is designed to celebrate the love and grace of God, which has brought you to this place of love and commitment to each other. It is most appropriate for such a service to take place in the Sanctuary of the Church, where we meet for worship from week to week. Because it is a place of worship, we would ask that the space be respected, and the furnishings not be moved, except by our staff. If you are using candles in your service, please ensure that they are of the dripless variety. This space seats up to **250** people, including the narthex.

Christian Education Centre (CEC): We can also offer the use of our CEC for your reception. This space seats up to **180** people for a meal. Like the Sanctuary, the CEC is a dry facility, where no alcohol can be served. This is in keeping with the United Church heritage as a temperance faith. Please contact the office for the current fees to rent our CEC.

Caretaking Notes: The caretaking staff need to be in the building for the rehearsal and the wedding, in order to perform their various duties. We would appreciate bubbles and the like to remain outside the building, and that you not use confetti or rice inside or outside the building. The caretaker is available up to an hour prior to the rehearsal or service and up to an hour following the service. If there is decorating to be done, that can happen at the rehearsal.

3. Use of the Organ

We are fortunate to have available to us a number of talented organists. If you would like to have organ music be part of your service, we can provide an organist to play for your wedding. They maintain a repertoire of music. If you desire another piece outside that repertoire, please supply the music to the organist at least three months in advance of the wedding. An extra fee of **\$50** will be assessed for accompanying each special item. Because we want to respect composer copyright, photocopies are not acceptable. If you wish for someone outside our church to play the organ, please contact us with this person's name and credentials at least three months in advance.

4. Other instruments and music generally

We also have an excellent piano available for use in the Sanctuary and a very effective sound system which can play music from CDs and from any device with a headphone jack. We can also provide microphones for vocalists, if desired. A sound technician will be present to operate the sound system. If you wish to use a power point presentation or video, these must be supplied in a suitable format, such as a USB stick.

5. Presiding Minister

As weddings are part of our church's worship life, it is appropriate that our minister presides at all weddings that take place in our church. If you wish for other ministers or people to also be involved in the wedding ceremony, please bring that request forward when you first meet with our minister.

6. Premarital Preparation

It is our policy that couples seeking to be married in the Church receive some premarital preparation. This largely consists of communication exercises, designed to enrich your relationship, and to equip you for the task of sharing the rest of your life together. Premarital preparation may be provided by our minister. Please talk to the minister to make these arrangements. As an alternative, we also recommend The Counselling Centre in Brandon, which provides a marriage preparation course about four times a year.

7. Photography and Video Production

Your wedding guests will be invited to worship and in order for that to happen, we will ask that they put their cameras away for the service. However, you may appoint or hire someone to take pictures and/or videotape the service on your behalf. In order to not detract from the wedding ceremony or disturb the occasion we would ask that the photographers avoid the use of their flash, and that movements during the service be kept to a minimum. Photographers and videographers should attend the wedding rehearsal in order to meet the minister, see the outline of the service, and confirm where they may stand and what they may do.

8. Cost

For the use of the Sanctuary, and honourariums for our staff and volunteers, we charge a fee of **\$700**. A tax receipt will be given for any donations made above this amount. Please bring your payment, along with your marriage license, to the office or the minister, at least two weeks before the service.

We hope this information is useful and will answer many of the questions you have about having your wedding at Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry. We extend our best wishes to you and pray that God will bless you with a happy and fulfilling life together.

Yours in Christ's name,

The Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry
Congregation and Boards
204-476-5881
nuasm@wcgwave.ca



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