

Riverside United Church
An Affirming Ministry

MARRIAGE POLICY

Preamble

Riverside United Church (RUC) as a member congregation of the United Church of Canada carries the authority to register marriages in the Province of Ontario. This civil authority is balanced with the desire that relationships be based on covenant vows offered to one another before God and a community of family and friends. Since a minister's authority to perform a marriage ceremony is derived from his/her relationship with RUC, it is the responsibility of the Council of RUC to provide direction to the minister(s) on conducting marriage ceremonies. This policy reflects that understanding and direction.

Marriage Policy

1. Couples who are married through RUC must have a desire to be married in the context of Christian worship.
2. We recognize and celebrate the sanctity of marriage between couples of all gender identities and sexual orientations, cultures, races and backgrounds.
3. Couples who are married through RUC must be eligible for a marriage license within the province of Ontario.
4. Riverside United Church Council has the ultimate responsibility for approving decisions about weddings, based on the recommendation made by the minister(s) after discussion with the couples wishing to be married.
5. Marriages registered by RUC may take place either at the Church or off site as agreed between the Minister(s) and the couple wishing to be married.
6. Weddings will not take place on the Easter weekend.
7. Couples wishing to be married will undertake some preparation (e.g. marriage preparation course, counseling with the minister, etc.) acceptable to the minister prior to the marriage ceremony.
8. Couples wishing to involve other minister(s) or organist will need to consult with the resident minister and/or Music Director. In the case of an alternate organist, the Music Director will be paid the regular fee unless the alternate organist has an acceptable level of prior experience with the organ owned by the Riverside Churches. This fee is tied to the use of the organ; if it is not required, the use of alternate musicians will not be subject to any fee.

Fees and Practices

Fees and practices for marriages at RUC are specified in a brochure which is available from the Church Office, and which will be provided to interested parties.

*Approved by Riverside United Church Council 2011
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