



## *Marriage Policy*

*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

*1 Corinthians 13: 4-8*



## Opening Statement

At Wesley-Knox United Church we welcome all people to the full life of Christian community including marriage.

Marriage in the context of the United Church is a faith-based expression of love and personal commitment.

## 2.0 Statement of Principles and Values

We believe God intends a loving relationship to be faithful, responsible, just, healing and sustaining of the couple and those around them and that such relationships require preparation and nurture. The celebration of marriage in The United Church of Canada includes:

- Couples not associated with Wesley-Knox
- Previously divorced people
- Couples of different religions
- Couples of all gender combinations
- Couples who view marriage as a response to God's call to be in relationship with one another in love and faithfulness

We the people of Wesley-Knox affirm that through marriage we offer one another the promise of lifelong companionship and rich expressions of human affection and sexuality. We affirm the value of marriage as an institution which provides stability for society and nurture for children.

## 3.0 Marriage Eligibility

Marriage is a spiritual commitment between the couple and God. All weddings will conform with all the laws of the Province of Ontario.

All couples who are members of the United Church of Canada, other Christian faiths or other faiths may be considered candidates for marriage at Wesley-Knox.

All couples who are not members of faith-based institutions may be considered candidates for marriage at Wesley-Knox, provided in the judgement of the minister they are committed to the principles and values outlined in this document.

#### **4.0 Marriage Preparation**

Request for meeting: all couples will be invited to meet with the Minister. All couples shall participate in marriage preparation as outlined by the Minister. This requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Minister.

Marriage preparation includes: informing the couple of the marriage process and what it involves, facilitating an understanding of one another, exploring their emotional intelligence, maturity and readiness for marriage, exploring their faith and exploring their understanding of the requirements for marriage individually and collectively.

A wedding rehearsal is required.

The Minister will review the ceremony and review expectations. The minister has discretion to decline if there are concerns. The Minister shall inform the couple of the decisions and rationale.

#### **5.0 Marriage Ceremony**

Ceremony: all weddings will be performed by the Minister of Wesley-Knox United Church and/or another minister with the permission of the Minister of Wesley-Knox United Church. All wedding services are recorded in the register at Wesley-Knox.

The church will not advertise the marriage ceremony to the congregation in advance unless requested by the couple to be married.

Your wedding service will be specifically designed with you in mind and your input will be very important. You will be asked to choose your own secular or scripture-based readings. You may prepare your own vows or seek guidance from the Minister. This facilitates a wedding service which is reflective of your relationship with one another and God.

#### **6.0 Publication of Banns**

Regular church attendants may have the wedding banns read on three consecutive Sundays preceding the ceremony by the couples' respective clergy.

## 7.0 Re-Affirmation of Marriage

Couples wishing to re-affirm their commitment to their existing marriage may place this request with the Minister.

## 8.0 Location of Marriage

Location: the sanctuary at Wesley-Knox can comfortably seat 300 people on the main floor and 100 people in the balcony. The location of the ceremony within the church is to be mutually agreed upon by the couple and the Minister. Offsite weddings will be fulfilled at the discretion of the Minister. A deposit and fee for the rental of the sanctuary will be expensed. (See fee schedule).

## 9.0 License

License: all marriages require a valid license issued by the Province of Ontario and must be received by the Minister a minimum of one week prior to the wedding date. It is the Minister's responsibility to ensure that it is completed properly and mailed to the Ontario Government.

## 10.0 Fees

Sanctuary: rehearsal and service	\$350.00
Minister	Minimum \$350.00
Music Director	Minimum \$350.00
Custodian	\$150.00
Wedding Coordinator	\$150.00
Audio/Visual Technician	\$100.00

Fees: these amounts are to be submitted in cash payment in separately labelled envelopes no later than the date of the rehearsal.

Marriage fees are to be reviewed annually.

## 11.0 Booking of weddings

Weddings are booked after the couple have met with the Minister and must be confirmed with the Office Administrator (Wedding Coordinator). Please call the church office at 519-673-4803.

## 12.0 Music

Wesley-Knox is well known for its musical excellence. We have an organist/pianist available for your service. All musical requests by the couple must be discussed and approved in consultation with the Music Director. Please coordinate your selections with the Music director well in advance of your wedding date.

Additional music fees will be determined by the Director should there be additional requests. Permission for other music or musicians must be approved by the Music Director and additionally will be your expense.

Fees are to be reviewed annually.

## 13.0 Photography and Videography

Only the official photo/videographer is/are permitted to document the service in a professional manner. Additional requests must be negotiated with the Minister. The photographer/videographer is encouraged to come to the rehearsal to determine in consultation with the Minister or custodian a suitable location for filming/photography.

## 14.0 Decorations

- Flowers and decorations are permitted in the sanctuary.
- Confetti is not permitted.
- All decorations are the responsibility of the couple being married and removal immediately following the service is the responsibility of the couple.
- A deposit for cleaning will be expensed and must be submitted no later than the date of the rehearsal.

## 15.0 Contact Information:

Address: Wesley-Knox United Church  
91 Askin Street, London Ontario, N6C 1E7

Email: [wesleyknox@bellnet.ca](mailto:wesleyknox@bellnet.ca)

Phone: Call the office at **519-673-4803** for additional enquiries.