



## **First United Church**

223 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North East, Swift Current, SK S9H 2G6

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*"...called by the Spirit to be a caring community of faith  
actively pursuing spiritual growth and compassionate outreach"*

## **Marriage Policy**

The First United Church building and our resident minister are available for United Church weddings upon request. The sanctuary seats approximately 450 people and our chapel seats 56 people. The resident minister of First United Church may also be contacted to perform a wedding at a location other than First United Church.

In accordance with the congregation's core values of acceptance and inclusiveness, all couples who share a loving, mutual, and life-giving relationship, regardless of gender, are welcome to marry at First United Church.

### **Resident Minister**

If a wedding is requested to be held at First United Church, the resident minister of First United Church will officiate at the service, if available. If the wish is to have another minister, or lay person participate in the service, please discuss this with the resident minister before making any arrangements. The resident minister may assign a portion of the service to another minister or lay person; but the liturgy, in all cases, will be shaped, lead and approved by the resident minister.

If the resident minister is unavailable, First United Church will find another United Church minister to conduct the service. This person will have the same responsibility as the resident minister in shaping, leading and approving the liturgy.

### **Marriage Preparation**

All couples are required to participate in an approved marriage preparation course. The church office will have information about local courses and out of town couples may find similar courses closer to where you live. Proof of attendance must be forwarded to the church office before the wedding date.

### **Wedding Service**

Couples will meet with the minister at least once before the wedding date to plan the wedding service. The wedding will be based on a United Church order of service, but the couple will be given lots of flexibility in the planning process.

### **Music**

The minister will be pleased to work with the pianist and/or organist to provide music for the service and will help you select music/hymns appropriate for the service.

If the wish is to bring in a musician from outside the church, the minister is to be consulted. The pipe organ and sound system in the sanctuary are handled only by personnel authorized by the church.

### **Wedding Coordinator**

A Wedding Coordinator is provided who can assist the couple with the wedding ceremony including: layout of church, procession, recession, decorations, etc. The Coordinator attends both the rehearsal and the wedding service and is available ahead of time for planning and questions.

### **Rehearsal**

The date and time for the rehearsal will be decided by the minister and the couple. It is very important that all participants in the ceremony attend the rehearsal: the couple, parents, minister, attendants, musicians, ushers, readers, etc.

### **Photography & Recording Devices**

Flash photography is permitted only during the procession, signing of the register and the recession. Video recording is permitted only from a stationary point which must be determined before the start of the ceremony.

### **Booking/Fees**

The policy of First United Church is to charge a fee for all weddings conducted in the church. Fee schedule is available from the church office.

A \$100 deposit (non-refundable) is required to book your date and time. In the event that more than one wedding is booked for the same date, choice of times is on a first come, first served basis. Getting your deposit in early secures your date and time.

Wedding fees must be paid 2 weeks prior to the wedding date. Your deposit will be applied to the wedding fees.

Officiant fees for weddings held at a location other than the church shall be the same as for weddings at the church.