

St. Andrew's United Church
Marriage Policy
and Sample Ceremony

Revised on July 16, 2015

Getting Married at St. Andrew's United Church

These fees must be paid by the wedding rehearsal at the latest. (pay fees separately please)

Church - \$200.00

Minister - \$300.00

Organist/Pianist - 100.00

You must contact the
Pianist or Organist
and make your own
arrangements

Janitorial fee - \$50.00

Music - The choice is yours and it can be played or taped. It will be up to you to ask the pianist or organist directly, if you require their services. If it is taped, it will be your responsibility to have someone in charge of this.

Photos - Only professional photos during the actual service but others can take photos during the processional, the recessional, the kiss and the signing of the documents. If you have a private video-person, they can set up prior to the service in a place that is non-obtrusive to the service

Rehearsal - Please arrange for a rehearsal time. Only the people actually involved in the wedding need to be at the rehearsal.

Samples of the Wedding Service

Greeting

This is a holy time; this place is sacred; God is here. We know this because God is love, and wherever true love is, God is present.

Statement Of Purpose We are gathered here to celebrate the love of _ to bless their vows to each other. By our presence we accept responsibility for supporting them in the new relationship they are about to enter. We are called to rejoice in their happiness, to be patient when they make mistakes, to help them in times of trouble, and to remember them in our prayers. The scriptures teach us that a relationship of committed love is a gift of grace.

The Question Of Impediment (must do)

_ , have you come here freely and without reservation to join together lawfully in marriage. If so, please say I have... I HAVE

OR

_ and _ have come here to become one in this holy union.

But if any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, declare it now or hereafter remain silent

The Declaration Of Intent (must do)

_ will you be _ 's Partner. Will you stand by her no matter what happens; will you respect her, seek to understand her needs, and welcome her love all the days of your life. If so, please say I will...

OR

_, will you take _ __, to be your partner? Will you share her/his joys and burdens? Will you be honest with her/him and be faithful to her/him always, as long as you both shall live?

Response: I will

Promises Of Family And Friends (please stand)

(you can also write your own words)

Do you, the families and Friends of

_ honour them in their marriage and support them with your love and care. If so, please say we will...

WE WILL

Readings: (any appropriate contemporary reading can be used: please show to the minister prior to the wedding) Here are two samples of popular readings for weddings:

The Spirit Of Life And Love In Human Form by
Michael Morwood

You are a two partners of love. You bring to this
wedding ceremony all that you are
and all that has made you who you are:
Your families, your friends, Your giftedness,
Your experiences of life,
Your insights, and your wisdom.
You bring your hopes and your dreams
Of what shared love might be.

In your love for each other we see the Spirit of
love and life in human form

And we rejoice in the wonderful ways each of you
makes that Spirit visible to us.

Be always the people you are because that is
what delights and attracts you and brings you
together.

It is also what we Your family and friends
delight in.

But let there also be space and room for the
other to grow as you form a bond this day that
you wish to be unending and unbreakable.

May that bonding be joyful and gracious,

May your love be overflowing and generous.

In all the years to come may you delightedly be
_____and_____,

Partners, Strong and constant in love

For each other For your families
And for your friends.

On Marriage by Kahil Gibran

You were born together, and together you shall
be forevermore. You shall be together when the
white wings of death scatter your days. Ay, you
shall be together even in the silent memory of
God.

But let there be spaces in your togetherness,
And let the winds of the heavens dance between
you.

Love one another, but make not a bond of love:
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores
of your souls.

Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup.
Give one another of your bread but eat not from

the same loaf. Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone, Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music. Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping. For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.

And stand together yet not too near together:
For the pillars of the temple stand apart, And
the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each
other's shadow.

Scripture readings, if you should choose to have
one or two

Genesis 1:26-28, 31

Genesis 2:18-24

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 19: 1-6

Psalm 23

Psalm 37: 3-7

Psalm 67

Psalm 100

Psalm 121

Matthew 5: 1-12a

Matthew 22:35-40

Mark 10:6-9

John 2:1-11

John 15:9-12

John 15:9-17

Romans 8:31(b)-35, 37-39

Romans 12:1-2,9-18

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Philippians 4:4-9

1 John 4:7-16

Galatians 5: 22-25

Message if you choose to have one would come here.

Blessing Of The Hands: if you want this)

_- Please join hands

"These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever. These are the hands that will work along-side yours, as together you build your future. These are the hands that will

passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other. These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow, and tears of joy. These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children. These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one.

These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it. And lastly these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch."

Prayer

As _ pledge their vows this day may they be a blessing to one another. With faith in God and in each other may they always bear witness to the reality of the love which we see in them this day. May their love continue to grow. Amen.

Exchange Of Vows (you may write your own vows or choose from a variety of written ones. Here are a few samples)

_ , I choose you to be my partner: to laugh with you in joy, cry with you in sorrow, to grow with you in love, serving one another and our

world in peace and hope, as long as we both shall
live.

OR

"You are my lover and my teacher,
You are my model and my accomplice,
And you are my true counterpart.
I will love you, hold you and honor you,
I will respect you, encourage you and cherish you,
In health and sickness,
Through sorrow and success,
For all the days of my life."

OR

"I take you to be my partner for life
I promise above all else to live in truth with you
And to communicate fully and fearlessly,
I give you my hand and my heart
As a sanctuary of warmth and peace

And pledge my love, devotion, faith and honor As
I join my life to yours."

OR

"I promise to encourage your compassion,
Because that is what makes you unique and
wonderful.

I promise to nurture your dreams,
Because through them your soul shines.

I promise to help shoulder our challenges,
For there is nothing we cannot face if we stand
together.

I promise to be your partner in all things,
Not possessing you, but working with you as a
part of the whole.

Lastly, I promise to you perfect love and perfect
trust,

For one lifetime with you could never be enough.

This is my sacred vow to you, my equal in all things."

Exchange Of Rings (may I have the rings please)

The ring is a symbol of a covenant promise of love encircling and unending and represent for you the circle of love that surrounds you always. May they be a sign of your commitment and a reminder of the vows you have taken to love one another.

(you may choose from one of the following ring ceremony words or write your own, or find another to share)

- _____, as you put this ring on _____ finger
 know that it is a sign of your commitment and a
 reminder of the vows you have made this day.

OR

- _____, as you place the ring on
 - _____ 's finger, please repeat after me:
 - _____, I give you this ring as a symbol
 of my love for you. Just as this band encircles
 your finger, / may you always feel encircled by
 my love.

OR

- _____, as you place the ring on _____ 's
 finger, please repeat after me:
 You are more precious to me today than
 yesterday, and you will be more cherished
 tomorrow than you are today. Please wear this

ring as a symbol of my eternal love for you, a love that transcends all of our yesterdays, all of our todays, and all of our tomorrows.

- _____, as you place the ring on _____'s finger, please repeat after me:

You are more precious to me today than yesterday, and you will be more cherished tomorrow than you are today. Please wear this ring as a symbol of my eternal love for you, a love that transcends all of our yesterdays, all of our todays, and all of our tomorrows.

The Declaration Of Marriage

- _____ you have committed yourselves to each other in this joyous and sacred covenant. May you become one, fulfilling the promises you have made this day. May there

be truth and understanding between you. May you enjoy length of days, fulfillment of hopes, and peace and contentment of mind. May God bless and keep you always.

THE KISS

Sand Or Grain Ceremony (If they want this) (you have two containers of sand, different colours and you blend them together by pouring them into another container, you could use different grains as well)

- , you have just sealed your relationship by the giving and receiving of rings and the exchange of a kiss, and this covenant is a relationship pledge between two people who agree that they will commit themselves to one

another throughout their lives. The most beautiful example of this partnership is the marriage relationship. You have committed here today to share the rest of your lives with each other. Today, this relationship is symbolized through the pouring of these two individual containers of sand one, representing you, _____ and all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be, and the other representing you, _____, and all that you were and all that you are, and all that you will ever be. As these two containers of sand are poured into the third container, the individual containers of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be.

Unity Candle Ceremony (If they want this) (you usually have two lit tapers and a central unity candle that the couple light together from the tapers. Sometimes a family member from each family would light the tapers, for example, mothers of the bride and groom. The bride and groom can also each light a taper and then light the unity candle together.)

- , this candle you are about to light is a candle of Marriage. Its fire is magical because it represents the light of two people in love. This candle before you is a candle of Commitment because it takes two people working together to keep it aflame. This candle is also a candle of Unity because both must come together, giving a spark of themselves, to create the new light. As you light this candle today, may

the brightness of the flame shine throughout your lives. May it give you courage and reassurance in darkness; warmth and safety in the cold; and strength and joy in your bodies, minds, and spirits. May your union be forever blessed.

Prayer

We have gathered in celebration with _____ as they meld their lives together. In a world that is often tangled and confusing _ and _____ have found a love that has enabled them to this recognition of their relationship, surrounded by their families in this Holy Place. May the beauty of the divine unfold in their hearts this day and everyday as they move further into the fullness

of life together. May they always find the strength to stand together in love and in peace, sharing all that life surrounds them with. Life is not always calm and peaceful but in their relationship with each other and with you, they know they are never alone. Amen.

The Dismissal And Blessing

May God bless you and keep you;
May God grant you joy and long life;
Go in peace, serve the world in love
Amen.

Signing Of The Documents

Presentation Of Couple It is with pleasure that I present to you (however they want to be presented) who are now joined in marriage

Grace (for the reception if needed)

It is through the simple things of life that we are nourished. In silence and in celebration our spirits are nourished

In contemplation and conversation our minds are nourished. In relationship and solitude our hearts are nourished. It is in sharing a meal that our bodies are nourished. May we be thankful this day for all those who are gathered to celebrate in the marriage of

- and may they have many wonderful years together as a family.

May we be thankful for the food we are receiving, for the company we are keeping and may our nourishment from this meal together help us to continue our work in our world. Amen