

"TWO SHALL BECOME ONE"

*Celebration of  
Marriage*



YOUR WEDDING AT  
MINTO UNITED CHURCH

# ***YOUR WEDDING AT MINTO***

## **GREETINGS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL -**

Our first word to both of you is congratulations!

Marriage is one of the most important steps a person ever takes in life and society has surrounded its beginning with all sorts of customs and celebrations. As you have expressed a desire to enter into the Holy State of Matrimony, the Church Council of Minto United would like to be the first to greet you as you come seeking to make arrangements for your wedding.

Please understand that "the Church" is not our minister alone and it is not a building. The Church is the whole fellowship of this congregation. The Church is people who corporately share their faith in Christ and seek to proclaim God's love in ministry to our community and to the world.

The Council of this congregation rejoices at your proposed wedding and your intention to begin your marriage in Christ's Spirit. Beyond the "beginning" is your continuing journey through all the seasons of your future life together. We hope that you will always participate in, lean on and lend your support to the Church. The Christian Church seeks to minister to the needs of people like yourselves at every stage of life and give its support to people in all their various circumstances. Minto has always prided itself on a "ministry to the family" in whatever form that takes and through many different services - counselling, marriage enrichment, parenting courses, family worship, etc.

We invite you to read on through this brochure and may God richly bless you as we work together to make your wedding and marriage a source of great joy and fulfilment.

## **NOW, WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

1). First of all, after reading through this booklet we would ask you to complete the Marriage Arrangement Form and return it to the Church office as soon as possible. This includes basic information required by the government as well as for our own church files.

2). Secondly, once the Marriage Arrangement Form has been returned with the deposit **confirm with the office** the date and time for your wedding. **Until you have talked to the office, nothing will be finalized regarding booking of time and date of the wedding.** Be sure to include a number where you may be reached during Church Office hours (Mon-Fri, 9-12 a.m. & 1-5 p.m.) Weddings on Saturday are booked at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

## **A WORD FROM THE MINISTER**

I, too, would like to say congratulations on your intended marriage. You could have chosen a civil ceremony. The fact that you considered a Christian service signifies that your desire is to have more than simply the fulfilment of the legal requirements of the Province. There are differences between a civil marriage and a Christian ceremony. For example, the law books make no mention of love but the Church places the greatest emphasis on this spiritual dimension.

If there are other reasons for your coming to the Church to be married, I would appreciate you being frank and open about them. When we share our reasons freely and with trust, we can plan together in a meaningful way.

As we plan your wedding there are two things I would like you to consider. Firstly, we want to make your service as personal and meaningful as possible. Therefore, there is room for flexibility and special arrangements that you may desire. I will be happy to discuss any ideas with you.

**Secondly, a wedding is a service of worship.** It is an act of celebration, praise and thanksgiving. You are confirming your vows before God and the community and you are declaring your intentions of marriage in the strength of God's Unconditional love for you and your unconditional love for each other. I will work with you to make your ceremony personal, meaningful, appropriate and an experience of worship and joy.

I look forward to meeting with you and making plans for your special day.

## **PREMARITAL COUNSELLING**

Marriage can be the road to the most amazing happiness that life offers, but it can also lead to terrible misery. While most people assume their marriage will succeed, the tragic fact is that one out of every two will fail. In these days when marriage and the family are under so much pressure, the Church is anxious to provide guidance and support for those who come to pledge their love. I will promise to help you prepare for your marriage and wedding as much as possible.

Preparation for marriage is preparation for the one experience in life upon which happiness depends most deeply. Whether you have been cohabiting, never been married or have been married previously, it is a worthwhile investment of time to spend a few hours taking an honest look at your relationship. **Therefore, one of the requirements for marriage at Minto is to engage in a program of premarital education.** You will find enclosed information on agencies who will provide premarital education for you. It is most important that you contact one of the agencies to arrange your registration as soon as possible ... we ask that when your arrangements are made you notify the church office as to your choice.

## **CHURCH FACILITIES**

The Sanctuary seats up to 400 people. Smaller weddings are sometimes conducted in the Chapel which will comfortably seat 25 people.

## **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Marriage is permissible only by a Marriage License. Marriage licenses are available from an issuer of marriage licenses - some of the local jewellers or bridal shops have them. You must be certain to obtain your license at least five days before the wedding. Licenses are valid for 90 days, therefore, we encourage you to deliver your license to the Church Office as soon as possible.

Individuals who are currently divorced must present a copy of their Decree Absolute to the issuer of the marriage license.

In cases where either the prospective bride or groom is under 18 years of age, consent forms must be completed and signed by the parents of the minor.

The marriage shall be contracted in the presence of two or more credible witnesses eighteen years of age or more.

At this time, no medical certificate is required.

## **CHURCH FEES and HONORARIA**

Sanctuary (Formal Weddings) ..... \$210.00 includes GST  
(Chapel (Small Weddings) ..... (\$50.00 plus GST))

Suggested Honorariums for staff involved in your wedding service would include the following:

Minister .....	\$100.00
Organist.....	\$65.00
Caretaker.....	\$20.00
Sound Technician .....	\$40.00
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	<b>\$435.00</b>

[At the time of the arrangement and confirmation of a date and time for your wedding, a \$50.00 deposit must accompany the "Marriage Arrangement Form."]

The Minister will only perform weddings **within** the physical structure of Minto United Church or other church. The Pre-Marital Education is a pre-requisite for being married by our Minister.

Weddings involving the minister from Minto but having the ceremony take place at another church, constitutes special arrangements. If you wish to celebrate your wedding at another church it is **ESSENTIAL** to initially contact the church and discuss your wishes with the resident minister. You should be prepared to invite that minister to participate in the service along with the Minto minister. In some cases, other churches may not encourage outside ministers to conduct weddings in their sanctuary. Please, be frank and honest about your reasons for celebrating your wedding in a church other than Minto.

**All fees must be paid, at the church office, two weeks prior to the wedding.**

Office hours are 9-12 a.m. and 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Thank You!

## **REHEARSAL**

Whenever there is to be a congregation of a dozen or more a rehearsal is very helpful. The minister will arrange the time of the rehearsal with you - usually the evening before your wedding. For the rehearsal, it is best to have the following people present:

Bride & Groom

Bridesmaids & Groomsmen

Maid of Honour & Best Man

Flower Girl & Ring Bearer

at least one Usher

and the Bride's Father or whoever will be walking the bride down the aisle.

The rehearsal usually takes about 30 to 40 minutes (Please be on time as we often have more than one rehearsal during busy wedding seasons).

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

We want you to have beautiful photographs of your wedding - but please remember that this is a **service of worship**. **No photographs are to be taken during the main part of the service because of the sacred and solemn nature of the celebration**. However, photographs may be taken as the groom enters the church, during the bridal procession, at the signing of the register and during the recessional. If you have one designated professional photographer, he or she may take picture throughout the ceremony as long as he or she is discreet and unobtrusive. Video recording of the service is also permissible. Please plan to have the equipment set up and tested well before the guests arrive. The minister will be glad to stay after the ceremony for posed picture.

Again please keep in mind that there may be another wedding after yours ... so please don't encourage guests to linger after the bridal party has gone!

## **MUSIC**

**Because the church views a wedding service as an act of worship**, certain guidelines have been established for music. It is expected that any vocal or instrumental music should be appropriate to a sacred ceremony and not merely "entertainment."

One of the differences between a Christian and a civil ceremony is that a Christian service is based on the belief that love between two people is dependent on God's love and grace; and that love will continue to grow as we deepen our faith in and obedience to God in Jesus Christ. Songs at a wedding should tell of this great gift of God's love for us, enabling us to love one another. Songs that speak only of human love - sometimes neglect this part, and are fitting for the reception, rather than a service of worship. The minister and the organist will be glad to discuss your music with you.

Josh Carley @ 691-0526 will help you plan your music when it is required. Any change to this policy can be discussed with the minister. He/she will play suitable music 15 minutes prior to the service, during the signing of the register and for the recessional. If you are arranging for a soloist to sing, please be sure to have the soloist contact Josh for a rehearsal time. Piano or guitar or other musical accompaniments for your soloist are your responsibility.

## **SIGNING OF THE REGISTER**

The Church office will have prepared the Register and other necessary legal papers for you to sign. Legal papers will be signed at the rehearsal while the Church Register will be signed in the sanctuary of the Church. The Church will issue a Marriage Certificate as a keepsake. **This however is no longer usable as a legal document.** Please contact Vital Statistics for forms that need to be filled out to receive a certified certificate of your marriage that can be used for name change for Social Insurance, Drivers License, at banks, for Passports, etc.

## **FLOWERS - DECORATIONS - CANDELABRA**

There are pew bows and brass candelabra available at the church. If you would like to have your own floral arrangements or decorations, please feel welcome. Supply of candles for the candelabra is your responsibility (14 candles). Pew decorations should be attached with elastic bands rather than tape or thumb tacks. In regards to confetti, we would kindly ask that it be thrown outside the church - well away from the entrance. As you know, confetti is a janitor's nightmare to cleanup so we ask your co-operation. Please **DO NOT** use live flower petals (flower girl). They crush into the carpets and leave permanent stains.

## **USHERS**

Should be on duty at least 30 minutes before the wedding service.

## **GROOM**

Should arrive with his best man and groomsmen at least 10 minutes before the service begins.

## **BRIDAL PARTY**

The bridal party arrives exactly on the hour of the wedding. Try to arrange your day so that you will not be late. Tell your driver - "get me to the church on time!"

## **RESERVED PARKING**

Reserved parking is available for a limited number of cars. Please advise the church so the caretakers can mark the street with signs.

## **ALCOHOL**

Even the slightest indication of alcohol consumption by **ANY** member of the wedding party will result in the immediate cancellation of the service. This is embarrassing and makes a disaster of your wedding day, but also it is a Provincial Law.

### **SERVICE BULLETINS**

The printing and publication of wedding bulletins are your responsibility. The minister will be glad to help you compose the bulletin if you so desire.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

It is an ancient and precious tradition that the bridal couple partake of the Lord's Supper at the wedding. While it is not frequently observed, your minister is prepared to celebrate communion with you as part of the ceremony.

### **WEDDING CANDLES**

If you desire to have the lighting of a wedding candle as part of the ceremony, you are asked to bring your candle to the rehearsal - the church has a candle holder. During the ceremony, the bride and groom take the side candles and together they light the wedding candle. This is rich symbolism, for when two flames touch, they create a single flame, signifying the miracle of two persons becoming one. "The two shall become one flesh." After the ceremony, see that one of your ushers returns the candle to you.

### **THE CHURCH AND YOUR FUTURE**

Certainly the interest and concern of the Church in the bride and groom does not end with the marriage service and the wedding reception. This is only the beginning of your new life together, and the initial stage in the founding of a new home, and those who have shared in helping launch both of you on your way together are all vitally concerned and interested to aid you in the tremendously important task to which you have now committed yourself.

The Church is the fellowship in which Christians find through communion with fellow Christians the inspiration and strength for daily living and for the achievement of their higher aspirations in common life.

Thus we hope you will not isolate yourself from the fellowship of which you are a part no matter how much you may be happy and content simply with each other. You should consider the settlement of your lives within a church family, a matter of extreme importance.

Just as you have turned to the Church to solemnize your marriage and to seek God's blessing, we encourage you to continue to seek God's blessing week by week for the strengthening of your marriage.

If you will be residing in Moose Jaw, we warmly invite you to consider Minto as your church home and wherever you travel may you always feel that the local church awaits you with a sincere welcome of Christ's love.

Once again, congratulations and may God be with you always.

**MINTO UNITED CHURCH**

**1036 7th Avenue N.W.**

**Moose Jaw, Sask.**

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**[306] 693-6148**

**Rev. John D. Carley  
Minister to the Congregation**

**Mrs. Elaine Acton  
Church Secretary**