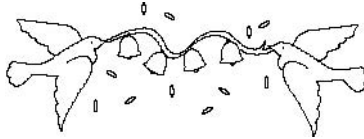


Planning Your Wedding with Harmony



Harmony United Church
15 Harmony Rd North, OSHAWA, ON L1G 6K8
(905) 725-8463
harmonyunited@harmonyunitedchurch.ca



Congratulations on your upcoming Wedding!

We're glad that you have chosen Harmony United Church to assist you in planning and celebrating this special day in your lives.

We want your wedding and continuing marriage to be filled with love, joy, and meaning, and so we will be glad to help you, by assisting in planning the service, and by discussing with you any of your concerns and questions.

The following information may answer some of your questions.



Who may Marry?

Matters affecting who may marry include the age of the individuals, their relationship to one another, and current marital status. At the present time the Marriage Act of Ontario establishes 16 years of age as the minimum age at which a person may marry. Persons 16 and 17 years of age must have the consent in writing of both parents. Persons 18 years of age or older may marry without the consent of parents. Certain degrees of consanguinity (relationship by blood) are prohibited among persons to be married. These are listed in Form 1 of the marriage license.

Within the United Church of Canada there are no restrictions upon the marriage of divorced persons, other than those imposed by the governments of Canada, and the respective provinces. Thus, according to the provisions of the Marriage Act of Ontario, divorced persons may remarry as soon as their divorce from a previous marriage has been finalized.



Setting the Date

The first step in arranging your wedding through our church is to select and book the date and time. You can do this by calling the church office at 905-725-8463 and requesting a “wedding application” form. At that time the date and time can be reserved but the wedding will not be confirmed until you have met with the minister, and he or she has agreed to officiate at your wedding service. There are certain special days during the church year on which we do not have weddings (i.e.) Christmas day and Easter weekend. During peak wedding months please be prepared to accept alternate times for your wedding. We schedule weddings 2 hours apart to ensure that there is no overlap between ceremonies.



Choosing the Place

A Christian wedding service is a service of worship. The most appropriate place for it, therefore, is the sanctuary of the church, before the symbols of worship. A minister may, however, at his or her prerogative, agree to officiate at a wedding held elsewhere – such as in an outdoor setting, or in another private or public building.



Meeting with the Minister

Your pre-marital interview should be arranged as soon as possible. This necessary step confirms your wedding date and allows you to begin making plans for the service. All weddings at Harmony United Church are conducted by

a minister of this church unless, he or her, at the request of the couple to be married, invites another minister to participate in, or to officiate at, the ceremony. At your meeting with the minister you will have an opportunity to choose from pre-set traditional or contemporary wedding services, or to begin the process of designing your own service in consultation with the minister. You will also have an opportunity to explore a variety of options such as printed programs, candle-lighting, participation of friends in the service, etc.

Marriage License or Publication of Banns

In the province of Ontario a wedding may be performed under the authority of a license that may be obtained from city, township or regional offices; or by the publication of Banns, which is arranged through the church. Banns are applicable only when both parties to the marriage are in the habit of attending church, and neither has been previously married. Banns must be read at two services of public worship, the last of which must be at least five days prior to the wedding. When Banns are published a marriage license is not required. There is no fee for the publication of Banns. The fee for a license is currently \$125. If a couple is being married on the authority of a marriage license we suggest that it be purchased well in advance of the wedding even though there is no longer a required waiting period between the date of purchase and the date of marriage. This is to safeguard the possibility of forgetting to purchase the license amid the more hectic preparations of the days approaching the wedding day. We request that the license be submitted to our church office at least 7 days prior to the wedding in order that the office secretary / wedding coordinator may have adequate time to complete all necessary documentation. In Oshawa a marriage

license may be purchased at the office of City Clerk Services, 50 Centre St., 1 floor, "B" Wing, from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



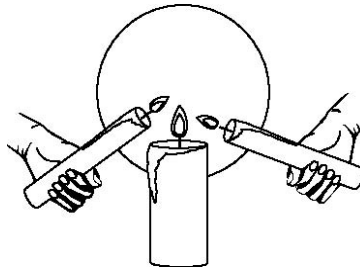
Choosing Music

If your wedding is taking place within the church you should contact the church organist as soon as you have met with the minister and the wedding booking has been confirmed. The Harmony United Church organist is Tim Southwell (905

725-8463). It is the responsibility of the couple to contact the organist and to arrange for a meeting to discuss music for their wedding. Wedding music, whether traditional or contemporary, must be in keeping with the spiritual nature of the service, and must be approved by the organist. In addition to the organ and / or piano, a couple may wish to have special music by flute, guitar, harp, etc. There are no restrictions upon such additional music providing that you discuss your thoughts with the organist prior to booking the services of additional musicians. All music selections must be approved by the organist. If a couple decides that they would prefer to have a relative or friend be their organist for the wedding, approval must be granted by the minister and church organist.

Selecting Your Wedding Party

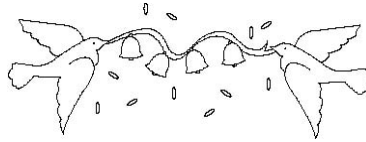
There is sometimes a tendency for couples to attempt to include all of their closest friends or family members in their wedding party. This can become cumbersome and add additional expense to your wedding. We recommend that your wedding party not exceed the following number of persons: bride and four attendants plus flower girl, and groom and four attendants plus ring bearer. Two members of your wedding party are usually asked to be the “witnesses to the marriage”. These have traditionally been the Best Man and Maid of Honour (or Best Woman). However, on occasion others, such as children of the bride and groom, have acted as witnesses to the marriage. There is no minimum age for witnesses, other than that they must be old enough to understand what is taking place, and be able to give testimony to the marriage if required.



Rehearsing the Service

It is important that we spend time prior to your wedding rehearsing the service. This normally takes place on the evening before your wedding, but can be arranged for another time close to the day of the wedding. The bride and the

bridegroom, and their parents, and all the attendants of both, and any additional ushers, are asked to attend. Musicians, soloists and photographer are welcome to attend if they so wish.



Decorating the Church

Harmony United Church is a beautiful place of worship and does not require elaborate decorations. You may, however, wish to add flowers and candles to personalize your special occasion. Floral arrangements may be delivered to the church prior to the wedding or, in some cases, may be placed after the rehearsal on Friday evening. Please check with the secretary / wedding co-ordinator for an appropriate delivery time. Flowers will not be placed on the Communion Table, (unless part of a candle arrangement for a Unity Candle ceremony), but placed on flower stands. The minister or the wedding co-ordinator will be happy to assist you with their placement. Some decorations may be used on the ends of the pews (secured by elastic or ribbon), and candelabra may be used at the front of the church. Please consult with the minister regarding any plans you may have for decorating the church.



Capturing Your Wedding Memories

It is important to us that you have pictures of your wedding. However, photography is not permitted during the ceremony itself, except by the person(s) whom you have selected to be your photographer. Your family and friends may take pictures during the processional and recessional, providing that they do not interfere with the work of your photographer. Video taping of the service is also permitted as long as it is done discretely without additional lighting.



Preparing for Your Life Together

While the minister will give you the opportunity to discuss any aspect of your relationship that you may wish to discuss, the initiative for such a discussion will be left largely up to you. We hope that you will feel free to raise any questions or concerns that you have regarding marriage, family life, or your relationship. We do suggest that couples contemplating marriage participate in one of the pre-marriage programs available in the community.

The Applicable Wedding Fees

These fees cover the costs of facility rental and the service of church personnel. They are to be submitted to the church office in cash, along with the marriage license, at least 7 days prior to the day of the wedding.

For supporting families\$430.00

For non-supporting families*\$590.00

*(families who do not contribute to Harmony United Church regularly through offering envelopes or P.A.R.)

A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit (payable in cash) is required at the time of the booking of your wedding. This amount is part of the above fees.

Optional Costs:

Organist's Practice / Rehearsal Fee\$35.00 (If the organist is requested to attend the rehearsal or to practice with a guest soloist or musician, this fee will apply.)



Other Church or Legal Requirements

Use of liquor or drugs. If the bride or bridegroom, or either of the two witnesses to the marriage, are observably under the influence of liquor or drugs at the time of the wedding the minister is obligated by law to cancel the wedding ceremony.

Smoking. Smoking is not permitted within the church premises.

Use of confetti, etc. Use of confetti, rice, bubbles or birdseed is not permitted within the church premises, or immediately outside the church entrances.

Change of name. It is no longer to be assumed that a woman will take the last name of the groom. The "Change of Name Act" presents a bride and groom with a number of options for family name after marriage. These are described on a "Change of Name" application form that is provided with your marriage license. Please be sure to take note of this form.

In Conclusion

The information in this brochure is provided to assist you as you begin planning for your wedding day. We, the minister and staff of Harmony United Church, wish to help you to make your wedding day a meaningful and memorable celebration of your love for one another. Please feel free to contact us regarding any questions, concerns and hopes that you may have regarding this very special event in your lives. God bless.

Harmony United Church

15 Harmony Rd North
OSHAWA, ON L1G 6K8

Office Phone: 905 725-8463

Fax: 905 725-8109

e-mail: harmonyunited@harmonyunitedchurch.ca

Office Hours

Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00

Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ministers

Rev. Robert LePage (905 725-8463)

Rev. Elwyn Hughes (Volunteer Associate)

Wedding Co-ordinator / Office Secretary

Shirley Goslinga (905 725-8463)

Organist

Tim Southwell

