

Registration of Ministry Personnel to Perform Weddings within Living Skies Regional Council

The conduct of weddings under the auspices of The United Church of Canada is part of the regular pastoral and outreach ministry of the church. Weddings are also services of worship.

Licenses to perform weddings are issued to Ministry Personnel by provincial and territorial governments as authorized by their religious bodies. All Jurisdictions served by the Living Skies Regional Council require that marriages performed under church auspices be recorded in a Marriage Registry, which is provided by Communities of Faith. All licenses issued to Ministry Personnel are done so through the Regional Council Office.

The Living Skies Regional Council has the responsibility for authorizing licences for persons to officiate at weddings within the bounds of the Regional Council. This authorization occurs automatically for all United Church ordered ministers (ordained and commissioned) and Designated Lay Ministers called, settled or appointed to Pastoral Charges and other special pastoral ministries accountable to the Regional Council (e.g., Chaplains). The Regional Council can also give approval to requests for the right to perform weddings for other persons (e.g., candidates, ordered supply) serving in congregational ministry personnel positions where other licensed persons are unavailable. **All ministry personnel shall have current racial justice and personal and professional boundaries training and have completed the annual declaration for police records checks.**

The Living Skies Regional Council, to ensure accountability for both persons performing weddings and those being married under the auspices of The United Church of Canada, and to comply with provincial and territorial regulations, has adopted the following policy for the issuing of licenses to marry:

1. Permanent licences to perform weddings are issued for the use of ministry personnel during the course of their active pastoral ministry within a particular ministry setting. Temporary licences are issued upon completion of the attached form.
2. Persons regularly called, settled, or appointed to pastoral ministry will be accountable both to their community of faith setting and the Regional Council for the conduct of weddings as part of their pastoral duties and responsibilities.
3. All such weddings conducted by persons in 2. above will be at or part of their ministry on the community of faith setting to which they have been called, settled, or appointed unless appropriate arrangements have been made with, and agreed to, by another community of faith setting concerned.
4. All weddings performed under the auspices of The United Church of Canada will be in compliance with provincial or territorial regulations and will be recorded in an appropriate register.

The Province of Saskatchewan wants you to be aware that:

1. Saskatchewan Marriage Licences are mandatory for all couples wishing to be married in the Province of Saskatchewan. It is the responsibility of the clergy performing the marriage to ensure the marriage licence they receive is valid prior to performing the marriage.
2. Saskatchewan Marriage Licences are mandatory. The "Publication of Banns" form will not be accepted by Vital Statistics, Registration Unit.
3. You are to complete the marriage licence listing their "Officiating Clergy's Religious Denomination" as the name of the denomination they are licenced under, not the religious affiliation.
4. Your licence/registration to perform marriages is valid only within Saskatchewan's borders.