

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

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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.

Licences to perform weddings are issued to Ministry Personnel by the provincial government as authorized by their religious body. 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 licences issued to Ministry Personnel are authorized through the Living Skies Regional Council Office. This authorization occurs automatically for all United Church Designated Lay Ministers and Ordered Ministers (ordained and commissioned) appointed or called to communities of faith and other special pastoral ministries accountable to the Regional Council (e.g., Chaplains). A candidate for ministry or an Admissions minister appointed to a community of faith may also be granted a licence for the duration of the appointment upon the request of the governing body. **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 regulations, has adopted the following policy for the issuing of licences to marry:

1. All weddings conducted by ministry personnel will be at or part of their ministry on the community of faith setting to which they have been called or appointed unless appropriate arrangements have been made with, and agreed to, by another community of faith setting.
2. All weddings performed under the auspices of The United Church of Canada will be in compliance with provincial regulations and will be recorded in an appropriate register.
3. *Temporary licences* may be granted to ministry personnel in good standing from another Regional Council upon completion of the form available upon request from the Regional Council Office. All criteria listed above apply to temporary licences including accountability and record-keeping.

### **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 ministry personnel performing the marriage to ensure the marriage licence they receive from the couple is valid prior to performing the marriage. The "Publication of Banns" form will not be accepted by Vital Statistics, Registration Unit.
2. Ministry personnel are to complete the marriage licence listing their "Officiating Clergy's Religious Denomination" as the name of the denomination they are licenced under.
3. This licence/registration to perform marriages is valid only within Saskatchewan's borders.

Any questions regarding the above policy may be directed to Bev Diebert at Living Skies Regional Council Office: [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca) or 306-701-0181.