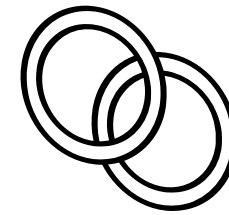




**The Celebration of Marriage  
at  
Sydenham Street United Church**

*82 Sydenham Street  
Kingston, Ontario K7L 3H4  
Phone: (613) 542-9616  
Fax: (613) 542-8784  
www.sydenhamstreet.ca  
Church email: sydenham@kos.net*



Minister:	Glen Thompson
Music Director:	Ruth Ranson
Office Administrator	Justin Sowik
Custodian:	

The decision to make a life-long commitment to another person and establish a life partnership is one of the most significant decisions two people can make, creating an enormous impact not only on the lives of the couple, but also on friends, family and the wider world.

We affirm marriage as an institution in which two people can live their love and their life-long commitment. We seek God's blessing on all those who marry, so that they may live their wedding vows.

As an Affirming Congregation committed to creating safe space and welcoming people of all sexual identities, we recognize and celebrate same sex-marriage as we do heterosexual marriage.

It is our hope and prayer that marriage – between a woman and a man or two women or two men – will offer each couple a respectful and loving environment throughout their lives.

We recognize that in this imperfect and broken world, not all promises are kept and not all marriages last. We are ready to support those who, after healing and learning from past hurts, are ready to commit themselves to a new life partnership.

We at Sydenham Street United Church are glad to support and guide you in the planning and preparation of your wedding; and then to celebrate with you as you make this significant life-commitment.

#### ***Who Can Be Married at SSUC***

SSUC Members and adherents, their families and friends, and members of the wider community are welcome to request a wedding at Sydenham Street United Church. It is

***There is a non-refundable deposit of \$200 is required in order to make a firm booking.***

\*If you want to have the church organist play at your wedding please contact him at least 3 months in advance. 613-547-0562 atmmrobinson@gmail.com

#### **Optional Additions:**

Candelabra rental	\$35.00
Music Director attendance at rehearsal	\$50.00
SSUC Soloist	\$50.00

In recognition of ongoing support of SSUC, SSUC members and adherents will be charged a reduced fee. Wedding fees can be negotiated when non-SSUC staff are involved, or in special circumstances.

Fees are to be submitted to the SSUC Church Office two months before the wedding. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or money order payable to ***Sydenham Street United Church.***

***Confetti/rice is NOT PERMITTED anywhere in the Church or on the grounds/property.***

### ***Flowers***

Flowers for the sanctuary are the couple's responsibility. You must arrange the time of delivery with the Church Office to ensure the church is open.

You are welcome to take the flowers with you at the end of the service, or you may wish to leave them for the congregation to enjoy during Sunday worship.

### ***Other Extras***

Couples are welcome to bring their own pew bows, or use Sydenham Street's, but please consult with the custodian about how to attach them to the pews.

Candles may be included in the service, in consultation with the minister. It is the responsibility of the couple to provide candles. Sydenham Street has two candelabras which can be rented for \$35.00.

### ***Photography/Videography***

Photographs may be taken while the wedding party is walking in and out of the sanctuary, and during the signing of the register. ***No pictures may be taken during the wedding service.*** A video camera using available light is allowed, so long as the videographer does not move around. The videographer is encouraged to come to the rehearsal to determine, in consultation with the minister and custodian, a suitable location for filming.

***The photographer/videographer must meet with the minister at least 15 minutes before the service.***

### ***Fees***

#### **Sanctuary Wedding**

Fee to be married in the SSUC Sanctuary which includes the services of the SSUC Minister, Music Director, Custodian and an administrative fee is \$1000.

not necessary to be a member of the congregation, or a practising Christian. It is important that couples and officiants who are not SSUC ministry staff respect the SSUC Wedding policy

It is possible to arrange a non-United Church wedding and/or an interfaith wedding in consultation with the SSUC minister.

Off-site, non-church weddings can be arranged with the SSUC Minister.

Normally it is not possible to arrange a wedding with less than one month's notice.

### ***Booking Your Wedding***

Call (613-542-9616, ext. 21) or email (sydenham@kos.net) the church office to find out if the preferred date for your wedding is available. The Office Administrator will send you a Wedding Event Form to fill out.

The Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald will only be performing weddings until the end of June 2016 when she retires. Contact the church for information about what Minister will be filling in.

If you want to change the time or date of your celebration after it has been booked, please call the Church Office to determine whether it is possible to do so.

### ***Meeting with the Minister***

Your first visit with the minister is an opportunity for you and the minister to get to know each other and for you to find out about wedding practices at Sydenham Street United Church. Be sure to bring any questions you have.

Once your wedding has been booked, you have three options:

- You can meet with the minister 3-4 times to discuss various issues related to life-long, committed relationships using the resource Prepare/Enrich. Or Gay & Lesbian Partner Program.
- Or you can take a marriage preparation course.
- Or you can combine both these options: take a marriage prep course and meet with the minister.

One month before the date of your celebration, you will need to meet with the minister to plan the wedding service. Please bring your marriage license and wedding fees with you to this meeting.

Couples are encouraged to attend 10:30 AM worship on Sunday to become more familiar with the minister, music director and sanctuary.

### ***The Wedding Service***

You will receive, from the minister, a resource that allows you to shape your service and choose various elements. You are expected to do your “homework” and return with your choices no later than two weeks before the service.

You are welcome to invite a friend or family member to read or offer a prayer. You will have to confirm their involvement with the minister.

It is possible to involve other ministers associated with the family. This will have to be worked out with the Sydenham Street minister. If you wish to have a minister other than Sydenham Street’s minister officiate, you need to make your request early because such request must be approved by Sydenham Street’s Worship Committee.

### ***Wedding Music***

Sydenham Street’s Music Director normally plays for all church weddings and is happy to choose appropriate music. It is the couple's responsibility to contact the Music Director at least one month before the wedding (kingstonbears@gmail.com).

If you have any special music requests, including the use of a soloist or a group, you must meet with the Music Director no later than two weeks before the wedding. If you are requesting that certain pieces be played, you may be asked to provide printed music if necessary. Involvement of other musicians must be arranged with the music director. Last minute requests for special music cannot be accommodated.

The Music Director’s basic wedding fee is \$200. A minimum extra rehearsal fee of \$50/hour will also apply, if the Music Director:

- is required to rehearse with a soloist or other performers;
- must prepare unusually difficult music;
- is required to attend the wedding rehearsal (not normally necessary).

If you wish to have another qualified musician (relative, friend, etc.) play the church organ for the wedding, this request must be approved by the Music Director.

### ***Rehearsal***

The rehearsal time must be arranged with the minister. It is usually held the Friday evening before the wedding and lasts about one hour. All members of the wedding party, both sets of parents and anyone participating in the service are expected to attend. The minister and custodian facilitate the rehearsal. The music director does not usually attend.