



BERMUDA-NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

APPLICATION FOR LICENSE TO MARRY

Updated March, 2024

Marriage, while not a sacrament in The United Church of Canada, is a sacred moment in the life of a couple and of a faith community. Presiding at a wedding by ministry personnel is always a function of ministry and, therefore, always a part of the pastoral relationship and the covenant between the Pastoral Charge, the ministry personnel, and the Region. The Region holds, as part of its responsibility, oversight of Pastoral Charges and ministry function.

The Executive Minister of the Regions is the recognized religious authority by the Provinces. As such, once a completed temporary marriage application is received and verified as appropriate, the Regional Council Office makes the formal request to the appropriate Provincial department under her direction.

A Letter of Good Standing is required.

For United Church Clergy in the Atlantic regions, you can request this letter by contacting the Office of Vocation Minister (Atlantic), at arichardson@united-church.ca.

For United Church Clergy outside the Atlantic Regions, Andrew Richardson may be able to direct you to the Office of Vocation Minister in your region. All other denominations, please obtain a letter of good standing from your denomination.

In the event that the wedding ceremony is planned for a location other than the sanctuary of a church building, it remains the requirement of the officiating ministry personnel to consult with the resident ministry personnel, as well as receive permission from the Session or its equivalent, to officiate within the bounds of that pastoral charge, and to record the wedding in the Congregational Marriage Record Book. As a function of ministry, the officiating ministry personnel is acting on behalf of The United Church of Canada; and therefore, should make every effort to ensure that the wedding is recorded appropriately.

Section A: To be completed by the officiating ministry personnel. Please forward this completed section plus the “permission” correspondence to the Regional Council Office (*address on next page*).

Section B: To be completed by the Executive Minister of the eastern regions of The United Church of Canada. Please leave this signature portion blank and forward this application, including “permission” correspondence, to the Regional Council Office (*address on next page*).

(over)

**REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY LICENSE TO MARRY
WITHIN BERMUDA-NOVA SCOTIA
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

A. To be completed by the officiating ministry personnel.

For those requesting a temporary license to marry within Regional Council:

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Status: (check one) Ordained: Active ☐ Retired ☐ Retained ☐
 Diaconal: Active ☐ Retired ☐ Retained ☐
 Designated Lay Minister: ☐
 Student Supply: ☐ Candidate Supply: ☐ Intern Supply: ☐

Pastoral Charge: _____ Regional Council: _____

Province within which the wedding is to be conducted: _____

Date of wedding: _____

Names of individuals being married: _____

Location of wedding: _____

Congregational Register where wedding is to be recorded: _____

The following correspondence must accompany this application.

1. Copy of correspondence to Session or its equivalent of local Pastoral Charge seeking permission
2. Copy of correspondence from Session or its equivalent of local Pastoral Charge granting permission
3. Verification of consultation with resident ministry personnel of local Pastoral Charge
4. A Letter of Good Standing is required. * For United Church clergy in the Atlantic Regions, you can request this by contacting the Office of Vocation Minister (Atlantic), at arichardson@united-church.ca. For all others, please see details on previous page.

Please forward this form and the items listed above at least 8 (eight) weeks prior to the scheduled date of the wedding to: First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, 320 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, NL A1B 1T9, Tel 800-268-3781 ext. 6140, or by email to jtaylor@united-church.ca.

B. To be completed by the Executive Minister of the Eastern Regions of The United Church of Canada.

On behalf of the applicant, Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council has reviewed the information in Section A and supports the application for a temporary license to marry as requested and offers assurance that the clergy is in good standing.

Executive Minister (On behalf of Regional Council)

Date