

**EBENEZER UNITED CHURCH:  
A POLICY OF LIFE EVENTS,  
PART OF THE DUTY OF CARE**



### **I. The Purpose:**

When someone is planning to celebrate a Life Event such as the Sacrament of Baptism, a Wedding, or to honour the life of a loved one with a Funeral, Memorial Service or Celebration of Life, the Board and congregation of Ebenezer United Church wish to offer support.

### **II. The Scope:**

The outlined policy and procedures are to be implemented by Ebenezer United Church ministry personnel, staff, volunteers, and any congregation or community members who are celebrating a life event in the building.

Approval Authority: Official Board

Approval Date: June 23, 2026

Review Cycle: Every 2 years

### **III. Baptism – Policy and Procedures:**

From the United Church of Canada:

“Baptism is a symbolic action that signifies the new life God gives us as we join the church community. Baptism uses water as a symbolic cleansing that signifies the acceptance of new life within the church family. The sacrament of baptism is the single rite of initiation into the Christian community, the church. The United Church offers baptism to all ages. We believe the gift of God's love doesn't depend on our ability to understand it, so we baptize people as infants right up through adulthood. With children, instruction is given to parents or sponsors to equip them for the child's Christian nurture. During the ceremony, which usually takes place as part of a regular worship service, everyone in the congregation pledges support for the child and their parents.

Baptism is not a requirement for God's love. We believe people who die without baptism are in no way condemned, lost, or damned.”

A family seeking Baptism on behalf of an infant or child, or an adult seeking to be baptized, should meet with ministry personnel to arrange a suitable date, as well as for education regarding the meaning of baptism.

#### IV. Weddings – Policy and Procedures:

The guidelines for the use of the church for weddings are as follows:

- a) The arrangements for the wedding will be made with ministry personnel well in advance, assuring the reservation of the church, and allowing for an opportunity for consultation and pre-marriage education, as well as arrangements for the music, rehearsal and reception.
- b) Our Music Director may be available to play for the service, and has right-of- refusal. Any requests for hymns or other music will be passed along by ministry personnel. If the family wishes to have any other musicians involved in the service, permission must be given by the Music Director for use of the organ or the grand piano.
- c) Confetti or rice will not be thrown anywhere inside the church or on the church grounds.
- d) Pictures may be taken as the bridal party enters and leaves the church, or at the time of the signing of the Register, but not during the ceremony. Videos, if desired, may be taken, without extra lights, from a still position at the back of the sanctuary. It is important that the photographer(s) speaks with ministry personnel prior to the wedding service.
- e) Flowers (bows, candles) are to be provided by those being married. If the flowers are to be left at the church for the Sunday service of worship, acknowledgement will be made in the bulletin.
- f) The fees for formal church weddings are as follows:

The Church	\$300	Ministry Personnel	\$400
Organist	\$250	Custodian	\$85 (if required)
Soloist	\$85 (if required)		
Sound Tech	\$85 (per technician required)		

The total amount covering fees for any services used should be written on one cheque, and made out to the church. The appropriate amounts will be distributed to the individuals or teams by the Treasurer.
- g) A \$100 deposit is requested at the time of booking. This will be deducted from the \$300 fee for use of the church. The deposit will not be returned if the wedding is cancelled less than one month prior to the event.
- h) Where the wedding consists of only the couple and their attendants, without music or guests, the above fees will be altered.

If there is anything that can be done to make your wedding more significant and meaningful for you, please let us know, and we will do what we can.

**MARRIAGE INFORMATION**

**Wedding Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rehearsal Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

An organist will be provided for you. Do you have any special music?

Number of guests: \_\_\_\_\_

**GROOM**

**BRIDE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Age on wedding day \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Religious affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mother's maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Details:

Number of attendants: \_\_\_\_\_ Male

\_\_\_\_\_ Female

Scriptures \_\_\_\_\_

Other readings \_\_\_\_\_

Musical Requests \_\_\_\_\_

**V. Funerals – Policy and Procedures:**

“In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.”

The guidelines for the use of the church for funerals are as follows:

a) Ebenezer is available to support you and your family through this time of grief. Please contact Ebenezer ministry personnel through the church office, in order to make arrangements for a funeral service, memorial service or celebration of life. Ministry personnel will meet with families to provide support, as well as to discuss readings, music, and memories of the loved one for the service.

b) Our Music Director may be available to play for the service, and has right-of-refusal. Any requests for hymns or other music will be passed along by ministry personnel. If the family wishes to have any other musicians involved in the service, permission must be given by the Music Director for use of the organ or the grand piano.

c) Flowers are to be provided by the family or friends. If the flowers are to be left at the church for the Sunday service of worship, acknowledgement will be made in the bulletin.

d) The fees for funeral services are as follows:

The Church	\$300	Ministry Personnel	\$400
Organist	\$250	Custodian	\$85 (if required)
Soloist	\$85 (if required)		
Sound Tech	\$85 (per technician required)		

The total amount covering fees for any services used should be written on one cheque, and made out to the church. The appropriate amounts will be distributed to the individuals or teams by the Treasurer.

e) If the family plans to have the remains of the loved one interred at the Ebenezer Cemetery, arrangements must be made through the Cemetery Committee. The availability of plots, the cost of purchasing the interment rights to a plot, and the fee for opening a grave, whether for a casket or an urn, is information that will be provided separately by a Cemetery Committee member.

If there is anything that can be done to make things easier for you, or to make the funeral or celebration of life more significant and meaningful for you, please let us know, and we will do what we can.