

HAMILTON CONFERENCE POLICY
ON THE
AUTHORIZATION TO
SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES



Approved by the Hamilton Conference Executive
February 12, 2005

MARRIAGE AUTHORIZATION (TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES)

On the recommendation of each Presbytery, the Conference Executive Secretary is authorized to forward to the Registrar General the names of those who are eligible to solemnize marriages in Ontario in accordance with the following policy:

- a) Members of the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada (diaconal and ordained) who are on the roll of one of the Presbyteries of Hamilton Conference, and who are called or appointed to a pastoral charge by a Presbytery;
- b) Members of the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada who are on the roll of one of the Presbyteries of Hamilton Conference, and who are serving in a Presbytery recognized ministry,
- c) Members of the Order of Ministry from other communions who are serving as ordained or diaconal supply within one of the Presbyteries of Hamilton Conference, [The Manual 2004, s. 342(i)]
- d) Members of the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada who are retired and who are on the roll of one of the Presbyteries of Hamilton Conference, and who have been approved by a Presbytery as a Voluntary Associate Minister,
- e) Members of the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada who are retained on the roll of one of the Presbyteries of Hamilton Conference, and who have been approved by a Presbytery as a Voluntary Associate Minister ,
- f) Lay Pastoral Ministers of the United Church of Canada who are on the roll of one of the Presbyteries of Hamilton Conference and who are appointed to a pastoral charge by the Presbytery.
- g) Other ministry personnel not covered by a) to f), where the exceptional circumstances have been approved by the Hamilton Conference Division of Ministry Personnel and Education or its equivalent.

An application initiated by the pastoral charge and approved by the Presbytery will be considered by the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education or its equivalent when it is accompanied by:

- the wedding policy(ies) pertaining to the pastoral charge,
- the job description of the ministry personnel for whom application is being made,
- a statement of the education/training taken by the ministry personnel for marriage preparation and worship leadership, particularly as it pertains to the Covenant of Marriage,
- and a statement describing how the mission and ministry of the pastoral charge will be enhanced by authorization being granted or hampered by authorization not being granted.

Persons in category (d) and (e) shall become associated with a pastoral charge/congregation if they wish marriage authorization; and shall seek the approval of the minister and the Session/Church Board/Church Council of the congregation/pastoral charge when they wish to solemnize a marriage and use the marriage register. [The

Manual 2004 s.365(d)] If disagreements arise, the normal procedures for pastoral oversight shall be followed.

Upon retirement, Order of Ministry personnel and other licensed ministry personnel shall be removed from the list of those eligible to perform marriages effective on the date of their retirement, unless they have requested and been approved status as Voluntary Associate Minister. Order of Ministry Personnel moving from call or appointment to the retained list (excluding those in special ministries) shall be removed from the list of those eligible to perform marriages on the effective date of being retained on the roll, unless they have requested and been approved status as Voluntary Associate Minister. [The Manual s.365] Those ministry personnel in category (f) and (g) will be removed from the list of those eligible to perform marriages on the effective date of a change in pastoral relationship, unless application for marriage authorization within a succeeding pastoral relationship has been approved.

1980 Record of Proceedings, page 28
1981 Record of Proceedings, page 122
1985 Record of Proceedings, page E101
1990 Record of Proceedings, page E94
1995 Record of Proceedings, page E44*
1996 Record of Proceedings, page E8
1999 Record of Proceedings, page E11
2005 Record of Proceedings, page E33