

Marriage Office Agrees to Resume Issuing Licenses to Marry to Non-ordained Applicants

The Ontario Marriage Office has agreed to resume issuing licences to marry to non-ordained applicants who are appointed to pastoral charges by Hamilton Conference. In other words, Hamilton Conference DMs (commissioned), DLMS (recognized), candidates for ministry in student supply appointments, **can once again obtain licences to perform marriages from the Province of Ontario.**

This issue arose at ServiceOntario when the approval process to issue licences to perform marriages was computerized. In setting up the program for the computer, ServiceOntario used the only information it had from the United Church about who the Church said were eligible to perform marriages. This information was a series of Conference policies dating from late 1980 and early 1981, which stated that the United Church permits ministers who are ordained to perform marriages. This explained why in 2018, after the introduction of the computer system, ministers who were not ordained were rejected for licences to perform marriages. The policy that ServiceOntario was using was out of date and an updated policy was submitted.

What Happens Now?

Anyone who recently received a rejection of their application to receive a licence to marry, should **resubmit that application**. It is reasonable to expect that they will now be granted Marriage Officiant's Licences, assuming they meet all the other criteria in the Marriage Act.

⇒ If you have any questions, please contact Sue Duliban, Admin. Assistant, Human Resources at sduliban@hamconf.org or 905-659-3343, ext. 230.