

First Unitarian's Lay Chaplains are honoured to help you mark any special life passage with a meaningful, personally designed ceremony.

We will partner with you to create a meaningful ceremony to mark any special life passage. We combine our experience and resources with creative input to express your values and beliefs.

We will work together to bring alive the essence, spirit and beauty of your special event.

WHO WE ARE

First Unitarian's Lay Chaplains are warm and compassionate Unitarians who love to help people create meaningful ceremonies. They are specially trained to perform all rites of passage and are legally authorized as marriage officiants in the Province of British Columbia. Lay Chaplains perform a wide variety of ceremonies including:

- Weddings
- Child Dedications
- Memorials and Funerals
- Vow Renewal/Reaffirmations
- Coming Out ceremonies for gay and transgendered people
- House Blessings
- Coming of Age celebrations
- Pet Blessings/Memorials

WEDDINGS

Our Lay Chaplains help you create a personal service full of meaning for you, your beloved and your family. We can provide materials and suggestions to help you get started and are happy to incorporate words and rituals from many sources. The important thing is that we can work together to incorporate the words that will express your unique love for each other.

Unitarian Universalist Lay Chaplains are proud to perform marriages for any two people who wish to dedicate themselves to each other. This includes same sex marriages, interfaith marriages and marriages from two cultures. Unitarians find inspiration within diverse religious traditions. We have experience weaving elements together to create a ceremony that is meaningful to all participants.

A sensitive, caring Lay Chaplain can make all the difference on your special day. Our Lay Chaplains are trained by our national religious organization, the Canadian Unitarian council, and registered to perform marriages in the Province of British Columbia.



FUNERAL AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

Paying tribute to your loved one requires a caring and sensitive approach. Our Lay Chaplains will work with you to learn about the person we are honouring -- their personality, their interests, what they were most proud of. We help you and your family through this difficult time by creating a ceremony that celebrates your loved one and their life journey. We can suggest readings and prayers from a range of sources, as well as incorporate favourites that are comforting and uplifting for you and your family. We welcome the participation in the service of family and friends.



CHILD DEDICATIONS

What a thrill it is to welcome your new arrival into the community, and to formally recognize the friends and family who will contribute to raising this child with you. Ceremonies may also be meaningful in the life of an older child. We encourage the active inclusion of siblings and any others who will be important in this child's life. This powerful ceremony recognizes the child's name and his or her unique identity. We will help you create a service of hope and joy that honours your values and provides a vision for the future.

ABOUT UNITARIANS & LAY CHAPLAINS

Unitarians honour beliefs from many traditions, allowing us to be open in our spiritual journeys. We are guided by our seven principles and enriched by the teachings of many modern and ancient cultures and faith groups. Unitarian Lay Chaplains have been providing meaningful rites of passage across Canada since 1970. We bring experience, skill, compassion and creativity to the hundreds of weddings, memorial, child dedications and other ceremonies performed every year across the country.

Unitarians are united by a set of principles. We affirm:

- the inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- a free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- the right of conscience and the use of democratic process within our congregations and within society at large;
- the goal of world community, with peace liberty, and justice for all; and
- respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

1. You contact us at: 250-744-2665 or laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca
2. A Lay Chaplain will meet with you and your family to discuss your needs.
3. You and your Lay Chaplain work together to create a personalized ceremony. They will have helpful suggestions and materials to guide you along.
4. Your community comes together to mark your special life passage.
5. We welcome your feedback.

FEES

The Lay Chaplain will advise you regarding the fee schedule for our services.



**For a Unitarian Rite of Passage,
Please Contact:**

laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca

First Unitarian Church of Victoria
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www.victoriaunitarian.ca

Special Moments:
Memories Forever

CEREMONIES AND RITES OF PASSAGE

Let Our Lay Chaplains
Help You Celebrate
Meaningful Life Events



First Unitarian Church of Victoria

*Growing in Spirit,
Living with Compassion,
Inspired to Serve*