

## **CIVIL CEREMONY**

WHO GIVES \_\_\_\_\_ TO BE MARRIED TO \_\_\_\_\_?

### **WORDS OF GREETING:**

GOOD (EVENING) AND WELCOME TO THIS JOYOUS OCCASION: THE UNITING OF TWO SOULS, THE JOINING OF TWO HEARTS. \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ HAVE ASKED EACH OF YOU HERE TODAY TO WITNESS THEIR MARRIAGE. IN A MARRIAGE A MAN AND A WOMAN BINDS THEMSELVES IN LOVE, FORMING A NEW COVENANT FOR WHAT WILL BE A LONG AND ENDURING FUTURE TOGETHER. WE REMEMBER THAT MARRIAGE IS A TIME WHEN GROWING LOVE IS MADE PUBLIC, WHEN TWO PEOPLE SHARE MUTUAL PROMISES BEFORE FAMILY AND FRIENDS. WE COME TOGETHER TODAY TO CELEBRATE THEIR JOY, THEIR LOVE AND THEIR EXPECTATIONS.

### **WORDS TO THE BRIDE AND GROOM:**

MARRIAGE IS A PROMISE, MADE IN THE HEARTS OF TWO PEOPLE WHO LOVE EACH OTHER. THIS LOVE WILL TAKE A LIFETIME TO FULFILL. WITHIN THE CIRCLE OF ITS LOVE, MARRIAGE ENCOMPASSES ALL OF LIFE'S MOST IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS. A HUSBAND AND A WIFE ARE EACH OTHER'S LOVER, TEACHER, LISTENER, CRITIC AND BEST FRIEND. IT IS INTO THIS STATE YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENTER.

### **DECLARATION OF INTENT:**

\_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_, I REMIND YOU THAT MARRIAGE IS A PRECIOUS GIFT, A LIFELONG DEDICATION TO LOVE AND A DAILY CHALLENGE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER MORE FULLY AND FREELY.

**GROOM:** \_\_\_\_\_, WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING, DO YOU BEFORE THESE WITNESSES TAKE \_\_\_\_\_ TO BE YOUR WEDDED WIFE? AND DO YOU PROMISE TO BE HER FAITHFUL HUSBAND, TO LOVE HER, HONOR AND CHERISH HER, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, FOR RICHER AND FOR POORER, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE AND TO KEEP YOURSELF ONLY UNTO HER?

GROOM'S RESPONSE: I DO

**BRIDE:** \_\_\_\_\_, WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING, DO YOU BEFORE THESE WITNESS TAKE \_\_\_\_\_ TO BE YOUR WEDDED HUSBAND? AND DO YOU PROMISE TO BE HIS FAITHFUL WIFE, TO LOVE HIM, HONOR AND CHERISH HIM, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, FOR RICHER AND FOR POORER, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE AND TO KEEP YOURSELF ONLY UNTO HIM?

BRIDE'S RESPONSE: I DO

### EXCHANGE OF RINGS

ARE THERE RINGS TO FURTHER SEAL THESE VOWS?

**MINISTER:** FROM THE EARLIEST TIME, THE CIRCLE OF THE WEDDING BAND HAS BEEN A SYMBOL OF UNENDING LOVE. AS OFTEN AS EITHER OF YOU SEES THESE CIRCLES, YOU WILL BE REMINDED OF THIS HIGH MOMENT AND OF THE UNENDING LOVE YOU PROMISE TO ONE ANOTHER TODAY.

*(TO THE GROOM):* PLEASE TAKE THIS RING AND PLACE IT ON \_\_\_\_\_'S FINGER AS YOU REPEAT AFTER ME:

#### **GROOM:**

I \_\_\_\_\_, TAKE YOU \_\_\_\_\_, TO BE MY WEDDED WIFE. AND I PROMISE BEFORE THESE WITNESSES, TO BE YOUR LOVING AND FAITHFUL HUSBAND, FOR BETTER OR WORSE, FOR RICHER OR POORER, IN JOY AND IN SORROW, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, WITH ALL THAT I AM, AND ALL THAT I HAVE, AS LONG AS WE BOTH SHALL LIVE.

*(TO THE BRIDE):* PLEASE TAKE THIS RING AND PLACE IT ON \_\_\_\_\_'S FINGER AS YOU REPEAT AFTER ME:

#### **BRIDE:**

I \_\_\_\_\_, TAKE YOU \_\_\_\_\_, TO BE MY WEDDED HUSBAND AND I PROMISE BEFORE THESE WITNESS, TO BE YOUR LOVING AND FAITHFUL WIFE, FOR BETTER OR WORSE, FOR RICHER OR POORER, IN JOY AND IN SORROW, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, WITH ALL THAT I AM, AND ALL THAT I HAVE, AS LONG AS WE BOTH SHALL LIVE.

NOW THAT \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ HAVE PLEDGED THEMSELVES TO EACH OTHER BY SOLEMN VOWS AND BY THE GIVING AND RECEIVING OF RINGS, THEY NOW ENTER INTO THE STATE OF MATRIMONY. AND BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED ONTO ME BY THE STATE, I NOW PRONOUNCE THEM HUSBAND AND WIFE.

#### **TO THE GROOM:**

YOU MAY NOW KISS YOUR BRIDE!

IT IS NOW MY HONOR TO PRESENT TO YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME, MR. AND MRS.  
\_\_\_\_\_!