

Sample Wedding Ceremony Of

Bride & Groom

- **PROCESSION**

- _____ to escort Bride's Grandmother/father
- _____ to escort Groom's Grandmother/father
- _____ to escort Groom's Mother
- _____ to escort Bride's Mother
- Rev. Carla and Groom enter, taking their place at the alter
- Bridesmaid and Groomsman enter together, taking their place at the alter (or have all of the groomsmen enter with Rev. Carla and Groom, with the ladies entering alone).
- Flower girl and ring bearer enter
- Maid of Honor enters

- **Bride enters with her father** (music changes to the Bridal March, Carla signals the guests stands)

- **INTRODUCTION –**

CARLA: "As we join together Bride and Groom, in this marriage, let us search our hearts for the wisdom of this covenant, which has from ancient times been expressed with those ideas that come from the heart. Ideas like love, loyalty, trust, fidelity, and forgiveness. Let us also decide to share our knowledge of these things with them as they start this journey together."

CARLA: "You may be seated"

- **DECLARATION OF CONSENT -**

CARLA: "Who gives Bride to be married to Groom?"

(Her father replies: Her mother and I, or Her family and I, or I do) (The groom approaches the Bride, shake hands with her dad and they approach Carla, once Bride has moved forward, then the father sits down)

- **QUESTION OF INTENT –**

CARLA: To Groom... "Will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor, and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others keep thee only unto her so long as you both shall live?"

Answer: I will

CARLA: To Bride... "Will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor, and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others keep thee only unto him so long as you both shall live?"

Answer: I will

CARLA: Bride and Groom, on this day you are taking a giant step of courage and commitment— to love, understand and grow. When a commitment this strong is made by two people, the force of the commitment, of that love, of that courage, reaches out and touches all of us around you, so that our lives are changed and we share the love you have for each other. Like a stone dropped in a still pond, the ripples of your love from this celebration extend out, and change the world we live in.

You are now taking into your care and keeping the happiness of the one person in the entire world whom you love most. You are adding to your life not only the affection of each other, but also the companionship and blessing of a deep trust as well. You are agreeing to share strength, responsibilities and love. History shows that we have never discovered a better way of life than to share it together with love, in a lasting and responsible way. This arrangement seems to fulfill our deepest human needs for love and companionship, for someone with whom we can share in an intimate and trusting way all the hopes, joy and dreams of life.

But real love is something beyond the warmth and glow, the excitement and romance of being deeply in love. It is caring as much about the welfare and happiness of your life partner as about your own. Real love is not total absorption into each other; it is looking outward in the same direction together. Love makes burdens lighter because you divide them. It makes joys more intense because you share them. It makes you stronger, so you can be involved with life in ways you would dare not risk alone. If you are here tonight with a spouse or a partner, let this ceremony be a reminder, a rededication of your own loving bond.”

VOWS--(Bride passes bouquet to Maid of Honor--have Bride and Groom face each other)

CARLA: (Groom repeat after me) Bride, I take you to be my lawfully wedded wife. Before these witnesses I vow to love you and care for you as long as

we both shall live. I take you with all your strengths and weaknesses, as I offer myself to you with all my strengths and weaknesses. I will support you when you need help, and come to you when I need help. I choose you as the person with whom I will spend my life.

CARLA: (Bride, repeat after me) Groom, I take you to be my lawfully wedded husband. Before these witnesses I vow to love you and care for you as long as we both shall live. I take you with all your strengths and weaknesses, as I offer myself to you with all my strengths and weaknesses. I will support you when you need help, and come to you when I need help. I choose you as the person with whom I will spend my life.

- **EXCHANGING OF RINGS –**

CARLA: “What symbols do you bring as a reminder of the promises given and received today?” (Best man / Maid of Honor passes the rings to Carla)

"A circle is the symbol of the sun, the earth, and the universe, of wholeness and perfection, peace and love. It is worn on the third finger, because of an ancient Greek belief that a vein from that finger goes directly to the heart. These rings mark the beginning of a long journey together. Wear them proudly, for they are symbols which speak of the love you have for each other."

CARLA: “Have Bride and Groom repeat the following...

Bride, I give you this ring, wear it with love and joy. As this ring has no end, neither shall my love for you. I choose you to be my wife this day and every day as long as we both shall live.”

Groom, I give you this ring, wear it with love and joy. As this ring has no end, neither shall my love for you. I choose you to be my husband this day and every day as long as we both shall live.”

- **UNITY CANDLE –**

CARLA: “Bride and groom are going to light their Unity Candle, to symbolize their marriage relationship. From now on, your thoughts shall be for each other rather than for your individual selves. Your joys and sorrows shall be shared alike. May the radiance of this one light be a testimony of your unity and burn brightly as a symbol of your commitment to each other.”

(Groom takes Bride's arm and walks her to the Unity candle. They separate to face each other, with the candle in between them. Music plays while couple light candle.)

- **SIGNING THE MARRIAGE LICENSE**

CARLA: "At this time I would like to invite _____(best man) and _____(maid of honor) to sign Bride and Groom's marriage license. (Groom turns to offer his back for the signing of the marriage license).

- **PRONOUNCEMENT OF THE MARRIAGE –**

CARLA: "For as much as you have consented together in holy wedlock, witnessed the same before family and friends, having pledged your faith to each other, declaring the same by joining hands and by exchanging rings; by the power given to me by the Universal Life Church and State of California, I now pronounce that you are husband and wife. You may now kiss your bride".

- **CLOSING PRAYER –**

And now you shall feel no pain,
For each of you shall be comfort to the other
And now you shall feel no rain,
For each of you shall be shelter for the other.
And now you shall feel no cold,
For each of you shall be warmth for the other.
Now there is no loneliness for you.
You are two persons,
But you now share One Unity of Purpose
Enter into your days of togetherness
And may they be good and long together

- **BENEDICTION –**

CARLA: "May the blessing that rests upon all who love, rest also upon you, and fill you with happiness. May the bond that unites you ever be strengthened? May you so love and work together in the days that are to come, that your lives will be enriched by a true and deepening union.

- **PRESENTATION OF THE NEW COUPLE –**

CARLA: Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to present to you for the very first time
Mr. and Mrs. _____.