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Welcome: Dear Friends we have come together today to share in the marriage celebration of the beginning of Bride and Groom's marriage together. On behalf of the bride and groom and their families, thank you for taking time to be here. They so appreciate you being here to celebrate with them their wedding and marriage.

To The Bride's Father: Who has the honor of presenting this woman to be married to this man?

Minister's Words to the Couple: Marriage is a sacred ceremony. Today we observe the union of these two people with the respect the occasion warrants. What we honor with reverence, however, we also celebrate with great joy! For married life – a shared life – is a tremendous blessing. Now, as groom and bride embark on this journey together, they will be able to nurture a love that makes each of them better versions of themselves. Marriage is, indeed, the perfect garden from which to sow and harvest personal growth.

Groom and bride, learn to work together, to laugh together, and to love together. Don't get caught up in worldly things that will draw you apart. Instead, focus on your shared devotion and turn inward. As your relationship strengthens you will find that you come to share a remarkable love; a love that is both abundantly given and freely accepted. The joy you'll find as you pursue your shared lives will fuel you to face head-on the challenges you'll encounter on this Earth. On your journeys together, keep your spouse in the space of highest priority in your heart. The love you share must be guarded and cherished, it is your most valuable treasure.

What is LOVE: Beyond the excitement and romance of love, real LOVE is:

- Caring as much about the welfare and happiness of your marriage partner as you do for yourself.
- Not being possessive or jealous; but it is liberating.
- Not being totally absorbed in each other but rather looking outward in the same direction.
- Love makes burdens lighter, because you divide them. Joy more intense, because you share them.
- Real love doesn't marry the person you can live with, but rather the person who you cannot live without.

LOVE LETTERS (optional freestyle vows)

LOVE IS: I Corinthians 13:4-8 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. 8Love never fails. 13And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

LOVE DOES: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 9 Two can accomplish more than twice as much as one, for the results can be much better. If one falls, the other pulls him up; but if a man falls when he is alone, he's in trouble. Also, on a cold night, two under the same blanket gain warmth from each other, but how can one be warm alone?12 And one standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer; three is even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

Other poetry: _____

Optional Prayer

Promise to Each Other Separately

Groom / Bride, do you promise to live together as God has ordained in holy matrimony? "I do."

Do you promise to you love her/him, comfort her/him, honor and keep her/him, in sickness and in health, in plenty and in want, in times of joy and in times of sorrow, and forsaking all others, keep you only unto her so long as you live? "I do."

Do promise to respect and honor her/him, sharing your plans and interests, ideals and emotions, through all the trials and tribulations of life, as well as the joyous times, caring for her/him in lifelong commitment. "I do."

Optional Promises to the Children if applicable

- Do the two of you promise to honor, respect, love, and provide for his/her children as your very own?
- Do the two of you promise to do your part in making this home a haven for trust, laughter, safety and security?
- Do the two of you promise to gladly accept any and all obligations and responsibilities attached to this new relationship with these children

Vows: I, *Groom/Bride* - take you, *Bride/Groom* - to be my wedded wife/husband - to have and to hold - from this day forward - for better, for worse - for richer, for poorer - sickness and in health - to love and to cherish - until death do us part.

Other Vows

Rings: "This ring I give you - in token and pledge - of my constant faith - and abiding love. - on this day and forever - I gladly I choose you to be my *wife/husband*

Ring Prayer / Blessing: With these ring you shall not walk alone. May your hearts be your shelter and my arms be your home. May God bless you always. May you walk together through all things. May you feel deeply loved, for indeed you are. May you always see the innocence in each other's eyes. May you feel this joy forever.

Hand Ceremony

- Each of you are holding the hands of your your best friend on your wedding day.
- These are the hands that will work alongside yours as together you build your future, as you laugh and cry, as you share your innermost secrets and dreams.
- These are the hands that will love you and cherish you through the rest of your years.
- These are the hands that will wipe your tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow and tears of joy.
- These are the hands that will comfort you in illness and hold you when fear and grief wrack your mind.
- Together as a team, everything you wish for can be realized.

Unity Candle or Unity Sand

Other symbol of Unity

Presentation of the Couple: BRIDE and GROOM, you have expressed your love to one another through the commitment and promises you have just made. It is with these in mind that I pronounce you husband and wife. You have kissed a thousand times, maybe more. But today the feeling is new. No longer simply partners and best friends, you've become husband and wife and can now seal the agreement with a kiss. Today, your kiss is a promise. Nothing is easier than saying the words, "I love you." Nothing is harder than living them out in your lives day by day. The things you promise today must be renewed and re-decided tomorrow and every day after.

On behalf of all those present here who love you and support you, I pronounce you husband and wife. Groom, you may kiss the bride (music begins as lips connect)

Other unique details:

<i>Deposit Amount: \$100</i>	<i>Deposit Date:</i>
<i>Balance Amount: \$</i>	<i>Balance Due Date:</i>