



Marriage Ceremonies

Bonnie Scheele
Grand Traverse County Clerk

Ceremony 17

Friends, we are gathered here in the presence of these witnesses to join together this man and this woman in the bonds of matrimony. Marriage is an honorable estate, and is not to be entered into lightly or unadvisedly, but soberly and discreetly. I ask of you both that if either of you know any reason why you should not be lawfully married, that you now confess the same.

Who gives this woman in marriage?

_____, will you have this woman to be your wife, to live together in the estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

_____, will you have this man to be your husband, to live together in the estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

Join right hands and repeat after me:

I, _____, take thee _____ to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till we are parted, and thereto, I pledge you my faith.

I, _____, take thee _____ to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till we are parted, and thereto, I pledge you my faith.

Please place the ring on her finger and repeat after me: With this ring, I wed you, and pledge to you all my love and devotion.

Please place the ring on his finger and repeat after me: With this ring, I wed you, and pledge to you all my love and devotion.

By the authority committed to me as Clerk of the County of _____, State of Michigan, I declare that _____ and _____ are now husband and wife, according to the ordinance of God and the law of the State of Michigan.

You may kiss the bride. Congratulations.

Ceremony 1

Clerk: We are here to join _____ and _____ in marriage, which is an honorable estate sanctioned by law. Marriage is not to be entered into lightly or inadvisably, but thoughtfully and reverently.

To Groom: Do you _____ take _____ to be your wife? Will you love her, honor her, support and keep her, in sickness and in health, and pledge yourself, one to the other, so long as you both shall live?

Groom: "I will."

To Bride: Do you _____ take _____ to be your husband? Will you love him, honor him, support and keep him, in sickness and in health, and pledge yourself, one to the other, so long as you both shall live?

Bride: "I will."

Clerk: Then face each other, join hands, and make these vows by repeating after me.

To Groom: I, _____, take you _____ to be my wife - to have and to hold - from this day forward - for better, for worse - for richer or poorer - in sickness and in health - until death do us part.

To Bride: I, _____, take you _____ to be my husband - to have and to hold - from this day forward - for better, for worse - for richer or poorer - in sickness and in health - until death do us part.

To Groom: _____, you have a ring, the symbol of your constant faithfulness and abiding love. Place the ring on the finger of your bride and say to her: "Receive this ring as a token of my love and devotion."

To Bride: _____, you have a ring, the symbol of your constant faithfulness and abiding love. Place the ring on the finger of your groom and say to him: "Receive this ring as a token of my love and devotion."

Clerk: For inasmuch as _____ and _____ have consented together in wedlock and have declared the same before these witnesses and in my presence, therefore, by virtue of the laws of the State of Michigan, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

You may kiss your bride.

Ceremony 2

We are gathered here, in the presence of this company, family and friends, that _____ and _____ may be united in matrimony.

Marriage is the promise of hope between two people who love each other sincerely, who honor each other as individuals, and who wish to unite their lives and share the future together. In this ceremony, they dedicate themselves to the happiness and well-being of each other, in a union of mutual caring and responsibility.

_____, are you ready to enter into this marriage with _____, believing the love you share and your faith in each other will endure all things?

_____, are you ready to enter into this marriage with _____, believing the love you share and your faith in each other will endure all things?

Then, will you please join your hands?

_____, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to share your life with her, and do you pledge that you will love her, honor her, and tenderly care for her in all the varying circumstances of your lives?

_____, will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to share your life with him, and do you pledge that you will love him, honor him, and tenderly care for him in all the varying circumstances of your lives?

Place the ring upon the finger of your bride and say to her: I place this ring on your finger—in token of my love and devotion.

Place the ring upon the finger of your groom and say to him: I place this ring on your finger—in token of my love and devotion.

You have spoken your promises. You have exchanged the signs of your commitment to each other. It is with great pleasure that I declare that you have married each other in the presence of these witnesses, and you are now husband and wife.

You may kiss your bride.

Ceremony 16

Marriage Ceremony of
_____ and _____
(Date)

To the Guests:

Friends, we are gathered here today to celebrate the joining of _____ and _____ in marriage. They are happy you are here to not only celebrate their wedding, but also that you have come here today, as friends and family, to be a special part of this moment in their lives... just as you have shared many other moments in each of their lives. The words they exchange today will be a reflection of the love that brought them together and the love that will sustain their marriage in the future. Marriage is not only the union of two people, but a union of two hearts. No other human ties are more tender; no other vows are more sacred than those they will exchange today.

To the Bride and Groom:

_____ and _____, please join your right hands. May the vows you say to one another build the foundation for a long and enriched life.

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

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

_____, please repeat after me. I, _____ – take you _____ – to be my wife – to love and to cherish from this day forward – for better, for worse – for richer, for poorer – in sickness and in health – so long as we both shall live.

_____, please repeat after me. I, _____ – take you _____ – to be my husband – to love and to cherish from this day forward – for better, for worse – for richer, for poorer – in sickness and in health – so long as we both shall live.

Ring. – Do we have rings?

The wedding ring is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual bond, signifying to all the uniting of this man and woman in marriage.

_____, you may place the ring on _____ finger and repeat after me: _____, I give you this ring – as a symbol of my love and affection – and pledge my love now and always.

_____, you may place the ring on _____ finger and repeat after me: _____, I give you this ring – as a symbol of my love and affection – and pledge my love now and always.

____ and _____, may your marriage live on the love you give each other, may it never grow old. May you always feel as special about each other as you do here today. May you always share laughter, talk, and peaceful moments. May you be blessed with a lifetime of happiness.

For as much as _____ and _____ have consented together in marriage before these witnesses, and thereto have pledged their faith, each to the other, and declared the same by the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of a ring, by the authority vested in me under the laws of the State of Michigan, I pronounce they are now husband and wife.

You may kiss the bride.



Ceremony 3

Marriage Ceremony of

and

(Date)

We are gathered here, in the presence of these witnesses, to join _____ and _____ in marriage, which is an honorable estate sanctioned by law. Marriage is not to be entered into lightly or unadvisedly, but thoughtfully and reverently. Marriage is not the union of two people, but a union of two hearts. No other human ties are more tender; no other vows are more sacred than those you will exchange today.

To the Bride and Groom:

____ and ____, have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

Since it is your intention to enter into marriage, please join your hands and face one another and declare your consent in the presence of this company.

____, please repeat after me.

I, _____ - take you _____ - to be my wife. - I promise to be true to you - in good times and in bad; - in sickness and in health; - I will love you and honor you - all the days of my life.

____, please repeat after me.

I, _____ - take you _____ - to be my husband. - I promise to be true to you - in good times and in bad; - in sickness and in health; - I will love you and honor you - all the days of my life.

Do we have rings?

____ take the ring and place it on _____ finger and repeat after me: _____ - take this ring - as a sign of my love and devotion.

____ take the ring and place it on _____ finger and repeat after me: _____ - take this ring - as a sign of my love and devotion.

For as much as _____ and _____ have consented together in marriage before these witnesses, by the authority vested in me under the laws of the State of Michigan, I now pronounce they are husband and wife.

____, you may now kiss your Bride.

Ceremony 4

Marriage Ceremony of
_____ and _____
(Date)

A short reading by the Bride and Groom.

We are gathered here, in the presence of these witnesses, to join this man and this woman in the bond of matrimony.

To the Bride and Groom:

_____ and _____, have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

Since it is your intention to enter into marriage, please join your hands and face one another and declare your consent in the presence of this company.

_____, please repeat after me.

I, _____ - take you _____ - to be my wife. - I promise to be true to you – in good times and in bad; - in sickness and in health; - I will love you and honor you – all the days of my life.

_____, please repeat after me.

I, _____ - take you _____ - to be my husband. - I promise to be true to you – in good times and in bad; - in sickness and in health; - I will love you and honor you – all the days of my life.

Do we have rings?

_____, take the ring and place it on _____ finger and repeat after me: _____, take this ring as a sign of my love and devotion.

_____, take the ring and place it on _____ finger and repeat after me: _____, take this ring as a sign of my love and devotion.

For as much as _____ and _____ have consented together in marriage before these witnesses, by the authority vested in me under the laws of the State of Michigan, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

_____, you may now kiss your Bride.

Ceremony 15

Marriage Ceremony of
_____ and _____
(Date)

To the Guests:

Friends, we are gathered here today to celebrate the joining of _____ and _____ in marriage. They are happy you are here to not only celebrate their wedding, but also that you have come here today, as friends and family, to be a special part of this moment in their lives...just as you have shared many other moments in each of their lives. The words they exchange today will be a reflection of the love that brought them together today, the love that will sustain their marriage in the future. Marriage is not only the union of two people, but a union of two hearts. No other human ties are more tender; no other vows are more sacred than those they will exchange today.

To the Bride and Groom:

_____, and _____, please join your right hands. May the vows you say to one another build the foundation for a long and enriched life.

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

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

(To the parents of the bride): Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

_____, please repeat after me. I, _____ - take you _____ - to be my wife – to love and to cherish from this day forward – for better, for worse – for richer, for poorer – in sickness and in health – so long as we both shall live.

_____, please repeat after me. I, _____ - take you _____ - to be my husband – to love and to cherish from this day forward – for better, for worse – for richer, for poorer – in sickness and in health – so long as we both shall live.

Ring. – Do we have rings?

The wedding ring is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual bond, signifying to all the uniting of this man and woman in marriage.

_____, you may place the ring on _____ finger and repeat after me: _____, I give you this ring – as a symbol of my love and affection – and pledge my love now and always.

_____, you may place the ring on _____ finger and repeat after me: _____, I give you this ring – as a symbol of my love and affection – and pledge my love now and always.

Now we shall celebrate this union as it is symbolized through the pouring of two individual containers of sand. One represents _____ and all that you were and all that you are, and all that you will ever be. The other represents _____ and all that you were and all that you are, and all that you will ever be. As the two vials of sand are poured into the third keepsake vase, the individual containers of sand ceased to exist as they are now joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual vases, so will the love and bond between the two of you render you inseparable. _____ and _____, may your marriage live on the love you give each other, may it never grow old. May you always feel as special about each other as you do here today. May you always share laughter, talk, and peaceful moments. May you be blessed with a lifetime of happiness.

For as much as _____ and _____ have consented together in marriage before these witnesses, and thereto have pledged their faith, each to the other, and declared the same by the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of a ring, by the authority vested in me under the laws of the State of Michigan, I pronounce they are now husband and wife. You may kiss the bride.

Ceremony 14

Reading:

This marriage celebration is but an outward sign of an inward union of hearts and as such, marriage is the most tender of all relationships in life. Marriage symbolizes the intimate sharing of two lives, yet this sharing must not diminish, but enhance, the individuality of each partner. A marriage that lasts is one which is continually developing. It is allowing each other to be vulnerable, to be himself or herself, even when the other's opinions or thoughts are not in total agreement. It is getting involved and showing interest in each other, really listening and supporting each other.

Two hearts that accept each other will find comfort together. Reaching out to each other as best friends, and becoming the confidant and companion that the other needs, is the true magic of two people together.

Love does not consist of gazing into each other's eyes, but in looking together, in the same direction. To make love grow, as with anything else, it has to be tended to, worked on and wanted. It is sharing not only joys and successes, but also the burden of sorrows and failures. Differences in marriage are normal, inevitable, and even healthy. But there is nothing that cannot be overcome by quiet talking and communication.

Above all else, three things need to be remembered in a marriage if it is to be a mutual bond of sharing, caring, and loving throughout life. These three things are love, trust, and forgiveness.

Please repeat after me:

I _____, take you _____, to be my wife/husband. Today I give myself to you in marriage. I give you my unending love and devotion. I promise I will be beside you in good times and bad, through joys and through sorrows; I give you my promise to be true to you, to cherish you, and to share my thoughts, hopes, and dreams with you. These things I give to you today, and all the days of my life.

May I have the rings please.

These rings are a symbol of the circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver, for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have taken.

Repeat after me:

I give you this ring as I give you my love, and with this ring I join my life with yours.

Reading:

May all that you are, always be in love;
And may all that is love, always be in you.
May your love be as beautiful on each day you share
As it is on this day of celebration.
May each day you share be as precious to you
As the day you first fell in love.
May you always see and encourage the best in each other.
May the challenges life brings your way
Make your marriage even stronger.
And may you always be each other's best friend and greatest love.

Ceremony 5

Marriage Ceremony of
_____ and _____
(Date)

To the Guest:

Friends, we are gathered here today to celebrate the joining of _____ and _____ in marriage. They are happy you are here to not only celebrate their wedding, but also that you have come here today, as friends and family, to be a special part of this moment in their lives. The words they exchange today will be a reflection of the love that brought them together today, the love that will sustain their marriage in the future. Marriage is not only the union of two people, but a union of two hearts. No other human ties are more tender, no other vows are more sacred than those they will exchange today.

_____, please repeat after me. I, _____ - take you _____ - to be my wife - to love and to cherish from this day forward - for better, for worse - for richer, for poorer - in sickness and in health - so long as we both shall live.

_____, please repeat after me. I, _____ - take you _____ - to be my husband - to love and to cherish from this day forward - for better, for worse - for richer, for poorer - in sickness and in health - so long as we both shall live.

Do we have rings?

The wedding ring is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual bond, signifying to all the uniting of this man and woman in marriage.

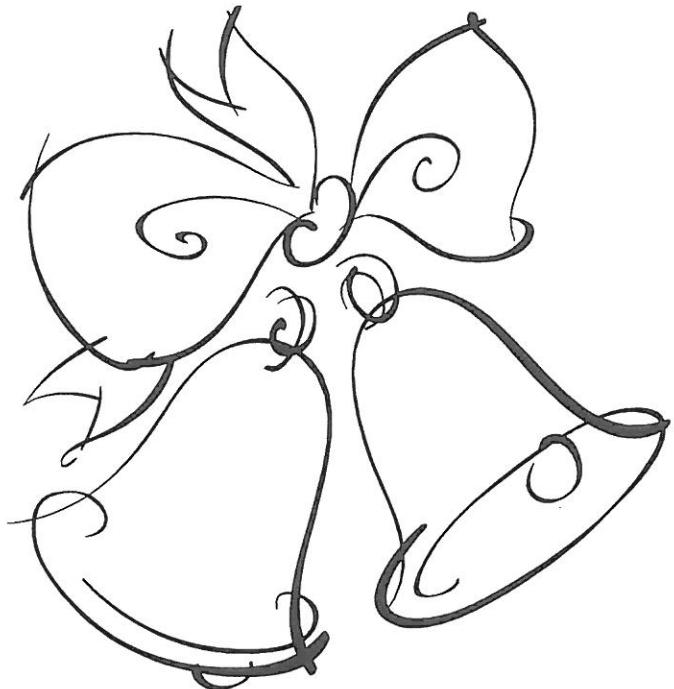
_____, you may place the ring on _____ finger and repeat after me: _____, I give you this ring - as a symbol of my love and affection - and pledge my love now and always.

_____, you may place the ring on _____ finger and repeat after me: _____, I give you this ring - as a symbol of my love and affection - and pledge my love now and always.

_____ and _____, may your marriage live on the love you give each other, may it never grow old. May you always feel as special about each other as you do here today. May you always share laughter, talk, and peaceful moments. May you be blessed with a lifetime of happiness.

For as much as _____ and _____ have consented together in marriage before these witnesses, and thereto have pledges their faith, each to the other, and declared the same by the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of a ring, by the authority vested in me under the laws of the State of Michigan, I pronounce they are now husband and wife. You may kiss the bride.

Ceremony 13



Good afternoon. Family and friends, we have gathered here today to joyfully acknowledge the wedding of _____ and _____. They have requested your presence on this memorable occasion in order that you might share with them the pledging of their everlasting love on this day of commitment. May we wish them all the happiness in their new life together.

Marriage is the joining of two lives. A good marriage is dependent upon a strong bond of friendship and respect for one another. There must be a sense of commitment and loyalty that bonds you, and a willingness to accept and understand each other's weaknesses as a foundation for a successful marriage.

In marriage, we not only say, "I love you today," but also, "I promise to love you tomorrow, the next day, and always." In promising always, we promise each other time. We promise to exercise our love, to stretch it large enough to embrace the unforeseen realities of the future. We promise to learn to love beyond the level of our instincts and inclinations, to love in foul weather as well as good, in hard times as well as when we are exhilarated by the pleasures of romance.

Marriage is love in the round; marriage is loving in every direction. We marry not only in order to be loved, to be consoled through the miracle of company, to feel secure, to have a place and a person to whom we can come home, to have our own needs met; we marry also to come into the presence of our capacity to love; to nurture, to heal, to give, and to forgive.

Love is a gift. Be thankful for one another. You have been delivered to your ultimate person with whom you can share the fruits of all the lessons in your life. Not everyone is granted this opportunity for happiness.

Above all, remember that love is what matters. Love will prevail. It is the love you feel for one another that will be the answer to all your difficulties. If in marrying you have chosen well and promised wisely, love will be stronger than all the conflicts, bigger than the changes. For it is love, after all and before all, that has brought you to this place. Love is what brought you together; love is what will keep you whole.

The vows, which you are about to exchange, serve as a verbal representation of the love you pledge to each other. For it is not the words which you speak today that will bond you as one, but it is the sense of love and commitment that each of you feels within your soul.

Do you, _____, take _____ to be your wife? Will you love her, honor her, support and keep her, in sickness and in health, and pledge yourself one to the other, as long as you both shall live? (If so, answer "I do.")

Do you, _____, take _____ to be your husband? Will you love him, comfort him, honor him, in sickness and in health, and pledge yourself one to the other, as long as you both shall live? (If so, answer "I do.")

Then face each other, join hands, and make these vows by repeating after me.

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wife - to have and to hold - from this day forward - for better, for worse - for richer, for poorer, - in sickness and in health - until death do us part.

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my husband - to have and to hold - from this day forward - for better, for worse - for richer, for poorer - in sickness and in health - until death do us part.

_____, you have a ring, the symbol of your constant faithfulness and abiding love. Place the ring on the finger of your bride and say to her: "With this ring, I pledge my love and devotion."

_____, you have a ring, the symbol of your constant faithfulness and abiding love. Place the ring on the finger of your groom and say to him: "With this ring, I pledge my love and devotion."

May you live out your days in joy, may you live in one another's company in peace; may your days be filled with the rewards of all you have endured to bring you to this place. May you endlessly delight one another and may you love and fulfill one another always.

By the authority vested in me as County Clerk for the County of _____ in the State of Michigan, and in accordance with the laws of this state, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Ceremony 12

FRIENDS AND RELATIVES -- We are gathered here today to witness the marriage of _____ and _____.

I ask you both to remember that love and loyalty will avail as a foundation of a happy and enduring home. No other human ties or vows are more sacred than those you now assume.

_____, will you take _____ to be your wife. Will you be honest with her always. Will you stand by her through difficult times and make whatever changes and compromises that are necessary so that you can truly always share a life with her? If so, answer "I will".

_____, will you take _____ to be your husband. Will you be honest with him always. Will you stand by him through difficult times and make whatever changes and compromises that are necessary so that you can truly always share a life with him? If so, answer "I will".

JOIN RIGHT HANDS AND REPEAT AFTER ME.

I, _____, take thee _____, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, and pray that our lives, will be eternally bound together by love.

I, _____, take thee _____, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, and pray that our lives, will be eternally bound together by love.

MAY I HAVE THE RINGS PLEASE.

These wedding rings are a symbol of your love for each other and the new life you are beginning today.

_____, as you place this ring on _____ finger, repeat after me.

"With this ring, I thee wed. Wear it with love and joy. I choose you to be my wife this day and every day hereafter."

_____, as you place this ring on _____ finger, repeat after me.

"With this ring, I thee wed. Wear it with love and joy. I choose you to be my husband this day and every day hereafter."

May the Lord's blessing be upon this marriage and may you live together in peace. For as much as _____ and _____ have consented together in holy wedlock and have witnessed the same before these witnesses, by the power vested in me by the State of Michigan, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

You may kiss the bride.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I proudly introduce to you *Mr. and Mrs.* _____.

Ceremony 6

Ceremony 7

We are gathered together in the face of this company to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony. Marriage is an honorable estate, therefore it should not be entered into inadvisedly or lightly. Instead it should be entered into reverently, discreetly, advisedly, and soberly.

Please face each other and join hands.

_____, do you take _____ to be your lawful wedded wife? *I do*

Do you promise to love and cherish her, in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer, for better for worse, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her, for so long as you both shall live? *I do*

_____, do you take _____ to be your lawful wedded husband? *I do*

Do you promise to love and cherish him, in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer, for better for worse, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, for so long as you both shall live? *I do*

_____, please repeat after me:

I, _____ take you, _____ to be my wife; to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live.

_____, please repeat after me:

I, _____ take you, _____ to be my husband; to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live.

_____, do you have a ring for _____? Please place the ring on her finger and repeat after me:
"With this ring I pledge my love and commitment."

_____, do you accept this ring as a symbol of _____ love and commitment? *I do*.

_____, do you have a ring for _____? Please place the ring on his finger and repeat after me:
"With this ring I pledge my love and commitment."

_____, do you accept this ring as a symbol of _____ love and commitment? *I do*.

May these rings be the changeless symbols of your admiration and love for each other. Just as these rings have no ending, so may your happiness and love be endless.

Inasmuch as you _____ and you _____ have in the presence of this company pledged yourselves to each other in love and fidelity, I therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the State of Michigan, do pronounce you man and wife.

You may kiss the bride.

Ceremony 11

_____ and _____ have asked us, their friends and relatives, to witness their marriage on this beautiful day. Their vows have been promised to each other in their hearts and will now be spoken before us. No other human ties are as tender; no vows more sacred than those you are now to pledge.

_____ do you take _____ to be your lawfully wedded husband, to live together in the state of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him and keep him in sickness and in health, forsaking all others and keep you only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

_____ do you take _____ to be your lawfully wedded wife, to live together in the state of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her and keep her in sickness and in health, forsaking all others and keep you only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

***Face each other and hold hands.**

_____, **please repeat after me...**

_____ this is my promise to you that as I become your wife, I will continue to be your friend, to join with you and to share all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond, and to maintain respect in our lives together.

_____, **please repeat after me...**

_____ this is my promise to you that as I become your husband, I will continue to be your friend, to join with you and to share all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond, and to maintain respect in our lives together.

_____, **please place _____ ring on his finger and repeat after me...**

_____ I give you this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity, and with it I promise you my constant devotion and enduring friendship. Wear it proudly all the days of your life as a symbol of these vows that bind us together.

_____, **please place _____ ring on her finger and repeat after me...**

_____ I give you this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity, and with it I promise you my constant devotion and enduring friendship. Wear it proudly all the days of your life as a symbol of these vows that bind us together.

_____ and _____ have given their promises to each other in this marriage. As this promise was witnessed before all present, I charge you both to be true to these vows you have made to each other. With your marriage you begin life anew with greater responsibilities. It is the duty of you both to be true to these vows you have made to each other. Remember, in interest, in reputation and in affection, you are to be one and undivided.

According to the laws of the State of Michigan and the power vested in me as its servant, I pronounce you husband and wife.

***You may kiss the bride...Congratulations.**

Ceremony 8

We have come here today in the presence of this company to join in holy matrimony _____ and _____.

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens. A good marriage must be created. In the Art of Marriage: the little things are the big things.

- It is never being too old to hold hands.
- It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once a day.
- It is never going to sleep angry.
- It is at no time taking the other for granted.
- The courtship should not end with the honeymoon, it should continue through all the years.
- It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.
- It is standing together facing the world.
- It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.
- It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.
- It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.
- It is not expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have wings of an angel.
- It is not looking for perfection in each other.
- It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor.
- It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.
- It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.
- It is finding room for the things of the spirit.
- It is a common search for the good and beautiful.
- It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.
- It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.

Do you, _____ offer yourself wholly and joyfully, and do you choose _____ as the person with whom you will share your life, in laughter and in tears, in conflict and tranquility, loving what you know of her, and trusting what you do not know yet?

Do you, _____ offer yourself wholly and joyfully, and do you choose _____ as the person with whom you will share your life, in laughter and in tears, in conflict and tranquility, loving what you know of him, and trusting what you do not know yet?

_____, please repeat after me:
"I, _____ take you, _____ to be none other than yourself. I promise to stand by your side; to encourage you, and be open and honest with you; to laugh with you, and cry with you, to always love and honor you; both freed and bound by our love, for as long as we both shall live."

_____, please repeat after me:
"I, _____ take you, _____ to be none other than yourself. I promise to stand by your side; to encourage you, and be open and honest with you; to laugh with you, and cry with you, to always love and honor you; both freed and bound by our love, for as long as we both shall live."

_____, do you have a ring for _____?

Please place the ring on her finger and repeat after me:
"This ring I give in token and pledge as a sign of my love and devotion, with this ring I thee wed."

_____, do you have a ring for _____?

Please place the ring on his finger and repeat after me:
"This ring I give in token and pledge as a sign of my love and devotion, with this ring I thee wed."

May these rings be the changeless symbol of your admiration and love for each other. Just as these rings have no ending, so may your happiness and love be endless.

Pronounced before these witnesses, you have joined yourselves in solemn matrimony. May you strive all your lives to meet this commitment with the same love and devotion you now possess. For love is truly the greatest gift we are given to share. Delight in each other's company and never take each other for granted.

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the State of Michigan...I now pronounce you husband and wife.

_____, you may kiss your bride.



Ceremony 9

MARRIAGE VOWS

_____ AND _____
(Date) – (Time)

Officiated by _____, County Clerk

We are here to join this man and this woman in marriage. Marriage is a solemn institution and should not be entered into lightly. _____ and _____ I charge both of you to remember that love and loyalty will be the foundation of an enduring and happy home. No other human ties are more tender than the ties of love which hold you together, no other vows are more important than those which you now assume. If these vows are kept, the home which you are establishing will be one of peace and happiness.

Your married life will give you the opportunity to grow together. Each of you must seek to know, to understand, and to love. Each of you must be as open and as honest as possible. May your knowledge become wisdom and may your wisdom increase your love and concern for each other. Be your true selves, but do not fear change. The secrets of the universe lie between you, they are yours to discover and cherish.

_____ will you take _____ into your heart, to share with you in the joys, struggles, triumphs and responsibilities of your future? Will you love and have faith in her all the days of your life together? If so answer, I will.

Now join right hands and repeat after me: I, _____ hereby take this woman to be my lawful wedded wife. I promise to love and cherish her in sickness and in health. I promise to take her for better for worse, for richer, for poorer, and leaving all others, I promise to love her forevermore.

_____, will you take _____ into your heart, to share with you in the joys, struggles, triumphs and responsibilities of your future? Will you love and have faith in him all the days of your life together? If so answer, I will.

Now join right hands and repeat after me: I, _____ hereby take this man to be my lawful wedded husband. I promise to love and cherish him in sickness and in health. I promise to take him for better for worse, for richer, for poorer, and leaving all others, I promise to love him forevermore.

_____, place the ring upon the finger of your bride and say to her: With this ring I unite with you and pledge to you my love and devotion.

_____, place the ring upon the finger of your groom and say to him: With this ring I unite with you and pledge to you my love and devotion.

As each of you has promised to be faithful and true to one another before these witnesses, and have sealed this promise by giving and receiving a ring, now, therefore, by the authority vested in me by the State of Michigan, I pronounce you husband and wife.

You may now share a kiss.

Ceremony 10

MARRIAGE VOWS

_____ and _____
(Date) – (Time)

Officiated by _____, County Clerk

_____ and _____ you come before me to be joined together in marriage. Marriage should be entered into with much thought for what it means to each of you, in the eyes of the law, and for the people among whom you will live.

No one has shown cause why you should not be so joined. I therefore ask:

Do you _____ take _____ to be your wife, and do you promise before these witnesses to be her true and faithful husband, to love and care for her before all others, through good times and bad, in sickness as in health, and to be patient, kind and forgiving with her from this day forward? If so, answer: I do.

Do you _____ take _____ to be your husband, and do you promise before these witnesses to be his true and faithful wife, to love and care for him before all others, through good times and bad, in sickness as in health, and to be patient, kind and forgiving with him from this day forward? If so, answer: I do.

You may now exchange rings. As each of you has promised to be faithful and true to one another before these witnesses and have sealed this promise by giving and receiving a ring, now, therefore, by the authority vested in me by the State of Michigan, I pronounce you husband and wife.