

SAMPLE WEDDING CEREMONY

Order of Service

1. **Prelude**
2. **Seating of Parents/Grandparents**
3. **Lighting of the Unity Candle**
4. **Processional**
 - Bridesmaids and groomsmen enter and assume their positions - Often called "Position One."
 - The white carpet is often rolled out in preparation for the bride.
 - The flower girl and ring bearer proceed into place.
5. **Bridal Processional**
6. **Declaration of Purpose**
7. **Giving of the Bride**

(The bride and groom follow the minister to Often called "Position Two;" the bridesmaids and groomsmen move to their respective places or stay where they are.)
8. **Invocation and Purpose of Marriage**
9. **Declaration of Intent**
10. **Exchange of Vows**
11. **Exchange of Rings**
12. **Lighting of the Unity Candle**
13. **Scripture Reading**
14. **Message**
15. **Declaration of Marriage**
16. **Presentation of the Bride and Groom**
17. **Recessional**

Declaration of Purpose

We have gathered together in the presence of God to join _____ and _____ in marriage. We aim to honor God's will for marriage, acknowledge the Christian Church's concern for its well-being, and recognize the state's interest in the orderly development of society.

Giving of the Bride

Who gives this woman to this man?

Answer: "Her mother and I," "We do," or "I do."

Invocation

God, our Father, we praise You for creating us and granting us the ability to love. We thank You for the love and trust that bring [Name] and [Name] to this, their wedding day. Bless them with Your presence and unite them in Your Spirit, so together they may reflect Christ's love for His church. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Institution and Meaning of Marriage

In marriage, as ordained by God, a man and a woman vow to live together in a lifelong, exclusive partnership of love and fidelity. The Apostle Paul likens the union of a husband and wife to the relationship between Christ and His Church (Eph. 5:31-32). A successful marriage in the eyes of God requires:

- A context for mutual support and companionship
- An environment for loving expression
- A secure setting for raising and educating children in the faith
- A foundation that enriches society and contributes to its orderly functioning

When these objectives are pursued in union with Christ, both the kingdom of God and the happiness of the husband and wife are assured.

Declaration of Intent

Now that you have heard God's will for marriage, do you promise to abide by it?

Exchange of Vows

Groom: _____, I take you, _____ to be my wife. I promise before God and all present here to be your loving and faithful husband for as long as our lives shall last. I will love you, serve you with tenderness and respect, and encourage you to develop the gifts that God has given you.

Bride: _____, I take you, _____ to be my husband. I promise before God and all present here to be your loving and faithful wife for as long as our lives shall last. I will love you, serve you with tenderness and respect, and encourage you to develop the gifts that God has given you.

Rings

Rings symbolize your covenant in Christ.

Groom: I give you this ring as a symbol of our covenant in Christ.

Bride: I give you this ring as a symbol of our covenant in Christ.

Lighting of the Unity Candle or Sand Ceremony

(Often, a song is sung during this portion.)

Message

Declaration of Marriage

By the authority vested in me as a minister of the Church of Christ, and in accordance with the laws of the state, I now pronounce you husband and wife, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate." (Matt. 19:6)

Recessional
