

## **Exchange of vows 1**

(Partner 1) and (Partner 2), now we come to your vows. May I remind you that saying your vows are one thing but nothing is more challenging than living them day-by-day. What you promise today must be renewed tomorrow and each day that stretches out before you. Will you now please turn and face each other and hold hands, looking at each other.

(Partner 1), please repeat after me: In the presence of (God and) our family and friends, I (Partner 1) choose you (Partner 2) to be my life partner, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, to love and to cherish, and to be faithful to you alone. This is my solemn vow.

Now (Partner 2), please repeat after me: In the presence of (God and) our family and friends, I (Partner 2) choose you (Partner 1) to be my life partner, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, to love and to cherish, and to be faithful to you alone. This is my solemn vow.

## **Exchange of vows 2**

My name is Joyce and I have the privilege of performing this ceremony today. On behalf of (Partner 1) and (Partner 2), welcome and thank you for being here.

They are thrilled that you are here today to share in their joy during this wonderful moment in their lives.

By your presence, you celebrate with them the love they have discovered in each other and you support their decision to commit themselves to one another for the rest of their lives.

The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved, loved for ourselves. If there is anything better than being loved, it is loving.

This afternoon we are here to celebrate love. We come together to witness and proclaim the joining together of these two persons in marriage.

God does not make a love that is wrong. This is the union of two individuals in heart, body, mind, and spirit, Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into lightly, but reverently, honestly, and deliberately. And it is into this union that (Partner 1) and (Partner 2) come now to be joined.

## **Same Sex Wedding Ceremony – Shorter**

### **Word of welcome**

Welcome to you all on this special day.

Regardless of the wonderful and loving relationship that (Partner 1) and (Partner2) have shared to this day, today, that relationship changes. All of us know it will grow, and become stronger and better.

Indeed, during these exciting times, this day is a day of hope; A day in which (Partner 2) and (Partner 1) demonstrate their faith and love in one another.

### **Reading**

I would now like to read a passage that I believe expresses the sense of joy and love experienced on a day such as this. It's called 'To My Friend': I love you not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you. I love you not only for what you have made of yourself, but for what you are making of me. I love you because you have done more than any creed could have done to make me good, and more than any fate could have done to make me happy. You have done it without a touch, without a word, without a sign. You have done it by being yourself. Perhaps, after all, that's what being a friend means.

### **Expression of Intent**

I now have a question for each of you.

(Partner 1), you have chosen (Partner 2) to be your life partner. Will you love and respect her/him? Will you be honest with her/him always and will you stand by her through whatever may come? (Answer: "I will")

(Partner 2), you have chosen (Partner 1) to be your life partner. Will you love and respect her/him? Will you be honest with her/him always and will you stand by her through whatever may come? (Answer: "I will") And do you both promise to make the necessary adjustments in your personal lives in order that you may live in a harmonious relationship together? (Answer: "We do")

### **The Exchange of vows**

(Partner 1) and (Partner 2), we now come to your vows. May I remind you that saying your vows are one thing but nothing is more challenging than living them day-by-day. What you promise today must be renewed tomorrow and each day that stretches out before you. Will you now please turn and face each other and hold hands, looking at each other.

(Partner 1), please repeat after me: In the presence of our family and friends, I (Partner 1) choose you (Partner 2) to be my life partner; To have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, to love and to cherish, and to be faithful to you alone.

This is my solemn vow.

Now (Partner 2), please repeat after me: In the presence of our family and friends, I (Partner 2) choose you (Partner 1) to be my life partner; To have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, to love and to cherish, and to be faithful to you alone.

This is my solemn vow.

### **The Giving of Rings (Optional)**

May I have the rings please?

(Partner 2), I give you this ring, that you may wear it, as a symbol of the vows we have made this day. I pledge you my love and respect, my laughter and my tears. With all that I am I honour you.

(Partner 1), I give you this ring that you may wear it as a symbol of the vows we have made this day. I pledge you my love and respect, my laughter and my tears. With all that I am I honour you. Now may those who wear these rings live in love all their days.

### **Declaration of Marriage**

(Partner 1) and (Partner 2), we have heard your promise to share your lives in marriage. We recognize and respect the covenant you have made here this day before each of us as witnesses. Therefore in the honesty and sincerity of what you have said and done here today and by the power vested in me, by the Province of Ontario, I declare you married and partners for life.

You may seal your vows with a kiss.

### **Introduction of the couple**

It is now my personal privilege and great joy to be the first one to introduce (Partner 1) and (Partner 2) as the newly married couple. Partners in life... for life.

Please greet them warmly.

## **Convocation Union**

**by**

**Robert Fulghan**

You have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some point, you decided to marry.

From that moment of yes to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making promises and agreements in an informed way.

All those conversations that were held riding in a car or over a meal or during long walks – all those sentences that began with “when we’re married” and continued with “I will and you will and we will” – those late night talks that included “someday” and “somehow” and “maybe” – and all those promises that are unspoken matter of the heart.

All these common things, and more, are the real process of a wedding.

The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another “you know all those things we’ve promises and hoped and dreamed -- well I meant it all, every word.” Look at one another and remember this moment in time.

Before this moment you have been many things to one another – acquaintances, friend, companion, lover, dancing partner, and even teacher, for you have learned much from one another in these last few years.

Now you shall say a few words that take you across a threshold of life, and things will never quite be the same between you two.

For after these vows, you shall say to the world, this – is my husband – this is my wife.

### **Reading**

In marriage, two people turn to each other in search of a greater fulfillment than either can achieve alone. Marriage is a bold step, taken together, into an unknown future. It is risking who we are for the sake of who we can be.

Only in giving of ourselves fully, and sharing our lives with another, can the mysterious process of growth take place. Only in loyalty and devotion bestowed upon another can that which is eternal in life emerge and be known.

Two among us, who have stood apart, come together now, to declare their love and to be united in marriage. The words we say today have no magic or prophetic powers.

The power of the wedding vows is merely a reflection of a reality that already exists in the hearts and minds of these two people. ----- and ---- nothing I can say, or nothing you can say to each other, will ensure a long and happy, satisfying and committed marriage Only your love for one another, and your integrity to make your commitment real, can do that.

# LOVE

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## LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND

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It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but  
• *rejoices with the truth* •

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**IT ALWAYS PROTECTS,**  
*always trusts, always hopes,*  
**ALWAYS PERSEVERES.**

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1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

## ***Knot Tying Ceremony***

xxxx and xxxx have just sealed their relationship with the giving and receiving of rings.

Today, their relationship is further symbolised by the tying of a fisherman's knot; a true lovers knot, for it is the strongest there is; it's bond will not break, becoming ever stronger under pressure.

xxxx and xxxx, will you please tie this knot!

These two cords represent your past; each of you as individuals, and the unique, and special gifts, you each bring to this marriage.

As you fasten your pieces together, these actions represent the present; this moment when you join your two lives into one common purpose. the completed knot represents your future, secure in the knowledge that your relationship will continue to be strong despite the inevitable changes life brings. Although the fisherman's knot is one of the simplest to tie, it is also one of the sturdiest. As stress is applied, the knot becomes ever stronger.

It is the goal of marriage to achieve a blending of hearts and lives, but like the spaces between these cords formed by the knot, let there also be spaces in your new life together, so each may encourage and nurture the individual growth of each other.

I ask that you now pull this rope to see it strengthen under pressure while still allowing us to see the individual cords ~ just as your support of one another as beautiful, and blessed, individuals strengthens your union.

As you hold one another in mutual concern and shared respect, may you continue holding each other tightly in your hearts, and form a strong bond, now and forever, let this knot indicate the strength of your love and be a symbol of your unity from this day forward.