Bride \_\_\_\_\_\_ & Groom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

& Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Have Mother of Bride & Groom come forward to light Bride (left)*

 *and Groom (right) candles for Unity Candle Ceremony)*

Good Afternoon - before we begin today, I would like to ask those who have cellphones to please either turn them off or put on silent. You are welcome to take pictures, but please no flash photography. Please be seated.

WELCOME

On behalf of Groom \_\_\_\_\_ and Bride\_\_\_\_\_, I would like to thank all of you for being here to share in their special day. This moment in time is truly a cause for joyous celebration for we are here to witness not only the beginning of a new marriage, but also a new chapter in life for this family.

Today Groom \_\_\_\_\_ and Bride\_\_\_\_\_ will be united in marriage and will include their child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in these vows making this family complete.

CONSENT

So... Groom \_\_\_\_\_, Bride \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are all of you ready to make a commitment to this marriage and to this family that is beginning today?

If so, please say: "yes, we are"

Who presents Bride\_\_\_\_\_ to be married to Groom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Bride’s father/parents responds: "Her mother and I do"

*(Bride gives bouquet to maid of honor)*

READING

**"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 facing the world together

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 the 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 the common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is the establishing of a relationship in which the independence is equal, the dependence is mutual, and the obligation is reciprocal.

And finally, it is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.

 *Wilford A. Peterson*

WEDDING VOWS

At this time Groom \_\_\_\_\_\_would like to share his vows with Bride \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Give index card to Groom\_\_\_\_\_ to read to Bride\_\_\_\_)*

I Love You Bride \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I Love Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Today, as we become husband and wife, we begin a new chapter in our life together as a family. I promise to be a faithful husband and loving father, and I will be there for you and Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ always. No matter what the circumstances life may bring, with God's help, we will face them together as a family. I commit myself to both of you from this day forward and forevermore.

Now Bride \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would like to share her vows with Groom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Give index card to Bride \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to read to Groom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)*

I Love You Groom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I Love Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Today, as we become husband and wife, we begin a new chapter in our life together as a family. I promise to be a faithful wife and loving mother, and I will be there for you and Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ always. No matter what the circumstances life may bring, with God's help, we will face them together as a family. I commit myself to both of you from this day forward and forevermore.

EXPLANATION OF THE RINGS

You are about to present a ring to each other. The wedding ring, a complete circle, is a symbol of the completeness a husband and wife find in a marriage relationship. The ring has no beginning and no end, just as true love is never-ending. The ring is made of precious metals and precious gems, just as true love is a precious treasure. As you place the wedding ring on each other's hand, may it always remind you of the endless love you possess for one another.

RING BLESSING

Let us bless the rings *(dip rings in holy water with each blessing)*

Bless these rings and your love, that you share communication and creativity.

Bless these rings and your love, that you share passion and the spirit.
Bless these rings and your love, that you share love and compassion.
Bless these rings and your love, that you share health and sexuality.

By the exchange of these tokens of your love for one another, so are your lives interlaced. What one experiences, so shall the other; as honesty and love build, so will your bond strengthen and grow.

RING EXCHANGE VOWS

Please repeat after me: (*Groom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Bride \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ then Bride \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Groom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*), our love is more precious than this diamond/ and more enduring than this band of gold/ I place this ring on your finger/ as a symbol of our love/ and the vows we have spoken here today.

CELEBRATION OF THE NEW FAMILY

When a couple marries, it is not just the joining of two lives together; it is the coming together of families as well. This is especially true today, for as Groom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Bride \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ become husband and wife, they are also joined now by Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to begin the next chapter in their lives as a family. At this time we recognize and acknowledge her significance on this wedding day.

COMMITMENT TO CHILD(REN) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ comes forward and forms a circle with Groom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & Bride \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

*They may join hands as they read the following vows)*

*Hand index cards to Groom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & Bride \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to read aloud together to Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

Today, as we become husband and wife, we welcome you and recognize that you are our precious gift. We promise to be there for you always, to comfort you and care for you, to protect you and provide for you, to guide you and listen to you, and most of all, to Love you with all of our hearts all the days of our lives.

PRESENTATION OF CHILD(REN)'S RING

Just as Groom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Bride \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gave each other rings as symbols of their love and commitment to one another, they would like to present Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with a gift as a symbol of their love and commitment to her. *(Joe & Bride \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ present ring to Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and put it on her finger and give her a kiss and hug and give her candle for Unity Candle Ceremony)*

LIGHTING OF THE UNITY CANDLE

*(Have Groom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Bride \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ take their individual lit candles and light Child(ren)’s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ candle, once their candles are lit, all come to the Unity Candle and together light it)*

The lighting of the Family Unity Candle symbolizes the blending together of all of your hearts into one heart, the multiple flames into one flame. Just as you light your candles together, so may your love for each other light up your lives, both individually and together as a family.

BLESSING

May God bless your marriage and family as you continue on this journey together. A family is a circle of strength and love. With every birth and every union, the circle grows. May every joy shared add love to the circle, and may every crisis faced together make the circle even stronger. May your family become like a beautiful rainbow as each color of your lives is carefully blended together with both the showers and the sunshine of God's love.

PRONOUNCEMENT

Groom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Bride \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, because you have committed yourselves to each other and to Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and because you have proclaimed your love for each other and for your daughter, and by the giving and receiving of rings, I now pronounce you Husband and Wife, and Family.

KISS

Groom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you may kiss your Bride

*(Bride receives bouquet from Maid of Honor)*

PRESENTATION

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my privilege to introduce to you for the very first time, Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and their Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.