

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE (Lesbian Couple with Children)

Ingathering Music

Vivaldi begins the processional. At the change of music, the children sit. Brides 1 and 2 process slowly and take their places on either side of Lay Chaplain, facing each other and also their people.

OPENING WORDS:

We are here to recognize a marriage. Bride 1 and Bride 2 have a relationship built on a 15 year foundation of love, deep friendship, and stability. Above all, this celebration today honours the strength and continuity of Bride 1's and Bride 2's life partnership, and is special as it is a marriage in the eyes of the world. In fact, we are creating new culture. I expect that the calibre of Bride 1 and Bride 2's relationship is an inspiration to some of you, their community.

The most wonderful of all things in life is the discovery of another human being with whom one's relationship has a growing depth, beauty and joy as the years increase. This inner progressiveness of love between two human beings is a most marvelous thing; it cannot be found by looking for it or by passionately wishing for it. It is a sort of Divine accident, and the most wonderful of all things in life.)

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICIANT

Good afternoon and welcome., I am a lay chaplain from the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. I am delighted to officiate at today's wedding service for these fine women, Bride 1 and Bride 2. We will pause now in the ceremony so that you can photograph this beautiful wedding party. Then, I'd ask that you refrain until the signing of the registry and license. Also, I ask you to ensure your pagers and cell phones are off. Thank you.....

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

We are called together today for an occasion of utmost importance in the lives of Bride 1 and Bride 2. They have invited you, family and friends, to share in their joy, and to participate in the celebration of their union.

For them, this celebration means that they are going to count on one another, that they are going to treat one another with care, and that they are going to continue to share their lives with each other as partners, and as friends. They will go on building their future together. This is an expression of the spiritual bond that they experience together. They see their union not as a time of static contentment with each other and the world around them, but as an ongoing process of expressing the fullness of their individual persons and sharing their friendship and love with you, their beloved community.

THE DECLARATIONS

Bride 1, do you now declare your willingness to take Bride 2 to be your wife? If so, please respond 'I do.' Response: I do.

Bride 2, do you now declare your willingness to take Bride 1 to be your wife? If so, please respond 'I do.' Response: I do.

SUPPORT FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Please rise

As Bride 1 and Bride 2 publicly declare their love for each other, and the commitment they freely make to one another this day, we can express our support for this union. I ask all of you who are gathered here today:

Do you who know and care for Bride 1 and Bride 2 give them your blessings now as they commit to their relationship? If so please respond, we do.

Response: We do!

Do you promise to give them both your deepest love, understanding, and support during both good times and bad? If so, please respond, we do.

Response: We do!

STATEMENT OF LOVE FOR EACH OTHER – spoken by the women to each other

ROSE CEREMONY:

Ask the children to bring roses to mom and auntie:

The girls have presented to you a gift to celebrate your union. In the language of flowers, a rose is a symbol of love. Please exchange your roses. ... In this exchange, you have given each other a gift as partner to partner, which of course is the gift of love. And it would be my hope that wherever you make your home, there is an especially appointed place in it for roses. And that on each succeeding anniversary of this occasion you celebrate it, at least in part, by each of you bringing to the appointed place a rose, as a re-statement of love and as a commitment to the vows you have made this day.

In every relationship, there are occasionally difficult issues which arise. When such times come in your marriage, one of you will remember and bring to the appointed place a rose, the other will see it, understanding it as a statement of love-- and accept it, remembering love endures all things.

VOWS:

I invite you now to join your hands as you repeat your vows. The hand offered by each of you is an extension of yourself, just as is your mutual love. Cherish the touch, for you touch not only your own, but another life. Be sensitive to its pulse. Seek always to understand and to respect its rhythm.

BRIDE 1, please repeat after me:

I accept you, Bride 2, as my beloved spouse.

I pledge to share my life with you,
and to mother our children together.

I will continue to love, honour and tenderly care for you,
in good times and in bad,

in ease and in adversity,
 for better, for worse,
 for richer, for poorer,
 in sickness and in health.
 I promise you I will never close my heart against you.

BRIDE 2, please repeat after me:
 I accept you, Bride 1, as my beloved spouse.
 I pledge to share my life with you,
 and to mother our children together.
 I will continue to love, honour and tenderly care for you,
 in good times and in bad,
 in ease and in adversity,
 for better, for worse,
 for richer, for poorer,
 in sickness and in health.
 I promise you I will never close my heart against you.

RING EXCHANGE:

May these rings be always a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end. Love freely given has no separate giver and receiver. You are each the giver and each the receiver. May these rings remind you always of the vows you have taken here today, and may these rings be blessed by the love with which they are given.

Bride 1 holds Bride 2's hand with both her own, and places Bride 2's ring as far as the knuckle:

Please repeat after me:
 Bride 1, I give you this ring to wear upon your hand as a symbol of our love.
Then gently turns ring fully.

Bride 2 holds Bride 1's hand with both her own, and places Bride 1's ring half way:

Please repeat after me:
 Bride 2, I give you this ring to wear upon your hand as a symbol of our love.

PRONOUNCEMENT:

Bride 1 and Bride 2 have sought and accepted each other joyously. May all that life brings to them strengthen the bond they have declared today. May all their loved ones, all of you who are present today as well as those unable to be present, continue to rejoice in the warmth of the love that has united them. May they bring comfort and joy, counsel and strength to each other. And may the home and family they have built together shed peace on them and all who seek shelter with them.

KISS: You may now seal your marriage with a Kiss.

SIGNING OF MARRIAGE LICENSE AND REGISTER: *Musical interlude. Brides and witnesses move to the signing table. After all have signed, return to the original places...*

PRONOUNCEMENT: (holding hands)

Since you, Bride 1 and you, Bride 2 have joined yourselves in marriage and have signified your commitment to each other in the exchange of vows, rings, and in the signing of the marriage license, I now pronounce you legally married.

It is my great pleasure and delight to present to you our newly wed couple, Bride 1 and Bride 2 (Enthusiastic cheers.)

RESPONSIVE BLESSING: I will read the “straight” text,
I invite you to speak together the italicized phrases:

Lay Chaplain: Bride 1 and Bride 2, may the love which has brought you together continue to grow and enrich your lives.

Family and friends: *Walking together, may you continue to find far more in life than either of you would have found alone.*

Lay Chaplain: May your home stay bright with the laughter of family and friends; may it continue to be a haven from the tensions of our time and a wellspring of strength.

Family and friends: *And may it be the one place each of you most wants to be.*

Lay Chaplain: May it be a place where old and the young are renewed in each other’s company.

Family and Friends: *May we who are near you be constantly enriched by the beauty and the bounty of your love for one another.*

Lay Chaplain: May your work be a joy of your life that serves the world; and may your days be good and long upon the Earth.

I invite you all to proceed to the receiving line to congratulate Bride 1 and Bride 2. I ask you to clear the room by exiting by the front stairs, so that it can be set up for the wedding reception. Thank you!

RECESSIONAL:

To music: first Bride 1 and Bride 2 walk out arm in arm, then attendants each accompanying the children.