

THE GREETING

We have come together today to witness the joining of two lives. For this, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary happened. *GROOM* and *BRIDE* met, fell in love, and it is their desire to unite in marriage today before their family and friends.

A good marriage is remembering:

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 standing together and facing the world.

It is speaking words of appreciation, and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is not only marrying the right person – it is being the right partner.

THE VOWS

Face each other and hold hands, repeat after me.

“I, *GROOM*, take you *BRIDE*, to be my wife, my partner in life and my true love. You fill me with a sense of peace. I take comfort in you becoming my wife. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.

I will trust you and honor you.

I will laugh with you and cry with you.

I will love you faithfully

Through the best and the worst,

Through the difficult and the easy.

Whatever may come I will always be there.

As I have given you my hand to hold

So I give you my life to keep.”

“I, *BRIDE*, take you *GROOM*, to be my husband, my partner in life and my true love. You fill me with a sense of peace. I take comfort in you becoming my husband. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.

*I will trust you and honor you.
I will laugh with you and cry with you.
I will love you faithfully
Through the best and the worst,
Through the difficult and the easy.
Whatever may come I will always be there.
As I have given you my hand to hold
So I give you my life to keep.”*

GROOM and BRIDE I would ask that you always treat yourself and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together today.

Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your marriage deserves. When frustration and difficulty assail your marriage – as they do to every relationship at one time or another – focus on what still seems right between you, not only the part that seems wrong.

I DO'S

GROOM, do you take **BRIDE** to be your Wife? (“I do”)

Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect her, forsaking all others and holding only unto her forevermore? (“I do”)

BRIDE, do you take **GROOM** to be your Husband? (“I do”)

Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him, forsaking all others and holding only unto him forevermore? (“I do”)

The ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely. Love 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.

RING EXCHANGE

Who has the rings?

Repeat after me.....

I GROOM, take thee, BRIDE, to be my Wife. To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer and for poorer, in joy and in sorrow, and I promise My love to you. And with this ring, I take you as my Wife, for as long as we both shall live.

I BRIDE, take thee, GROOM, to be my Husband. To have and to hold in sickness and in health, for richer and for poorer, in joy and in sorrow, and I promise My love to you. And with this ring, I take you as my Husband, for as long as we both shall live.

To make your relationship work will take love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today.

It will take trust, to know, that in your hearts, you truly want what is best for each other.

It will take dedication, to stay open to one another – and to learn and grow together. It will take faith, to go forward together, without knowing exactly what the future brings.

And it will take commitment, to hold true to the journey you both have pledged today.

For as much as you *GROOM* and you *BRIDE* have consented together in marriage before these witnesses, and have hereto pledged your faith to each other, and declared the same by joining of hands and the giving and receiving of a ring; I by the authority vested in me under the laws of the State of Michigan, now pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss the bride. Congratulations!