

Michael and Ina eloped and later on decided to have a “formal wedding and reception” for their family and friends. They also chose to write their own ceremony. I think you will find this ceremony fun, and creative. It is about their own personalities and love for each other.

Ceremony of Michael & Ina

Intro –

Too all: Hello and Welcome. You may be seated.

We are gathered together here today in the presence of friends and family, to celebrate the love which Ina and Michael have for each other; to give social recognition to their decision to commit their lives to each other and accept each other completely; to learn how to help and understand each other, to build a family, and to travel through life.

If anyone has anything to say that might change his or her mind.... They... Don't want to hear it. However, they do want to hear from you, that you will always be their friends, and will always support and encourage them as they discover the commitment and dedication needed to make a marriage work. And that is why you are all here today.

Question of Intent –

To Bride: Do you Ina; take Michael, in the presence of God and these witnesses, to be your wedded husband? Do you promise to love him, support and honor him, in good times and in bad, to enjoy him, console him, to forever delight and astonish him whenever possible? To give thanks for him and cherish him.. With all of your heart to the end of your days?

I Do—(Ina)

Groom: Do you Michael; take Ina, in the presence of God and these witnesses, to be your wedded wife? Do you promise to love her, hold and honor her, in good times and in bad, to enjoy her, console her, to forever delight and astonish her whenever possible? To give thanks for her and cherish her.. with all of your heart to the end of your days?

I Do—(Michael)

Brief Reading:

Just as God's love for us is given freely and unconditionally, so should your love for one another. Only love can hold together a marriage, through all of life's obstacles. As you travel through this life together, remember, it was not the long drive in that Dodge van that got you here today, it is love that got you here today. The love, which sparked within both of you, so many years ago, will forever burn.

I ask you today... to always remember that initial spark.. To guard your love for one another.. And to always hold that spark tight within your hearts.

If you will now face each other, we will make your commitment to one another with vows.

Ring Vows:

(Place the ring part way on the finger.)

Michael and Ina, as you place thee rings on each other's hand, you are making a promise to one another to cherish and respect one another, to be open and honest with one another, to make your home one of love and understanding. To always seek fulfillment with your lives, not only together but also as a family, Not only today but for the rest of your lives. Slide the ring onto one each other's finger, as a symbol of your never ending love and commitment to each another and say, "With this ring, I thee wed."

With this ring, I thee wed— (Ina and Michael)

This wedding is more than a union of man and wife, it creates a new family.

Michael, do you not only promise to be a good and faithful husband, but also a patient and loving father to (child name) and (child name)? Caring for them and providing for them as your own?

Do you promise to be their strength and emotional support, to love them with all your heart, until the end of their days?

I will— (Michael)

(Child Name) and (Child Name), will you join them now.

Officiant to children: Do you accept this union and this promise for a new family?

We will— (children)

(Ina will now speak to the children for a short moment and present their gift of unity)

(Ina): (Child name) and (child name), we both love you so very much. Michael and I wear rings as a symbol of our love to one another. Today we offer a symbol of our love to you as well.

These necklaces will forever be a sign of our love for you both, and our commitment to have a strong, healthy, loving family for you to grow up in.

Reading: *(Turn back to face Officiate, children will return to their places)*

Michael and Ina, as the two of you come into this marriage, you are united as husband and wife, and this day affirms your faith and love for one another. I will ask that you always remember to cherish each other, as special and unique individuals, to always respect each other's thoughts, ideas, and suggestions. To be able to forgive, do not hold grudges, and live each day that you may share, together. From this day forward you shall be each other's home, comfort, and refuge. May your marriage strengthen by your love and respect for each other.

Now, you may kiss your beautiful bride.

I am now proud to “formally” present to you... Mr. and Mrs. Michael (last name).

(We will then greet everyone as they leave to head towards the reception.)