

### Ceremony Suggestions III

#### (Vase & Rose Exchange)

The Union of husband and wife is one of the heart, mind, and body and is intended (by the Lord) for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort given to one another in the times of prosperity and adversity. The union grows as the couple becomes one in more and more ways on a growing basis as their love for one another expands.

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ life is given to us as individuals and the first lesson we must learn as a married couple is how to live together with each other. Love is given to us by our family and friends; we learn to love by being loved. Learning to love and learning to live together is one of life's greatest challenges. That is the goal of a married life.

But the husband and wife should not confuse the love of worldly measures, for even if worldly success is found; only love can hold a marriage together. Mankind did not create love; God created love and teaches it to us. The measure of a true love is one given freely and a love that is freely accepted, just as God's love for us is given freely and unconditional. Today is a glorious day that God has made as you reaffirm your love and vows for each other. Both of you are blessed with God's greatest gift of all, an abiding and true love of each other, and the reward of a lifelong companionship that entered your life through the love in your lives. As you travel through this life together remember it was love that got you here, it is love that will continue in your lives, and it is love that will cause this union to endure. I ask that you guard your heart and your love for one another, and hold it tightly in your hearts.

#### **Vows**

\_\_\_\_\_ will you continue to have  
\_\_\_\_\_ as your husband and continue to live in this marriage. Do you reaffirm your love for him, and will you love him, keep him, and honor him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you shall live?

\_\_\_\_\_ will you continue to have  
\_\_\_\_\_ as your wife and continue to live in this marriage. Do you reaffirm your love for her, and will you love her, keep her, and honor her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you shall live?

#### **May I have the Rings**

(Husband) please place the ring on \_\_\_\_\_ finger and repeat the following.

I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, with all that I am and all that I have I honor you, and with this ring I thee wed.

(wife) place the ring on his finger and repeat the following.

I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, with all that I am and all that I have I honor you, and with this ring I thee wed.

### **The Charge**

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ as the two of you both now reaffirm you love for each other and the vows you made to each other many years ago, I charge that you each remember to cherish each other as special and unique individuals and that you each respect the thoughts and ideas of one another. And most all be able to forgive each other, and not hold grudges against one another, and I charge that you live each day in love with each other, always being there to give love, comfort, and refuge to each in good times and bad. Amen.

### **THE MARRIAGE VESSEL (Vase) AND THE ROSE CEREMONY**

Marriage is a commitment to learning to care for one another in mutually fulfilling ways. It is not an act but a life-long relationship always in the making.

To symbolize today's reaffirmation of that commitment, Brad and Janet, you will now share two symbolic gifts, a marriage vessel and a rose.

(THE MARRIAGE VESSEL AND THE ROSE SHALL BE PLACED ON A TABLE OR STAND)

### **THE MEANING OF THE GIFTS**

The vessel and the rose are symbols for God as Creator and Sustainer of Life – the One who invites us to overcome separateness and find fulfillment in the sharing of one life with another.

### **THE VESSEL**

(THE OFFICIANT PICKS UP THE VESSEL).

In the biblical story of creation, “The Lord formed the human from the clay of the ground...”

This vessel of clay, lovingly shaped, is a symbol of love's strength and endurance. The miracle of the vessel is that it not only protects but is enriched by that which it holds.

### **THE ROSE**

THE OFFICIANT PICKS UP THE ROSE.

Bride, May this gift represent my Gratitude / for the person you are / And the person I am becoming.

(Bride takes the rose.)

OFFICIANT HANDS VESSEL TO BRIDE, WHO REPEATS AFTER THE OFFICIANT:

\_\_\_\_\_, May this gift represent my Gratitude / for all you have given me / And all we will share together. (Groom takes the vessel.)

### THE SHARING

BRIDE PLACES HER ROSE IN THE VESSEL, WHICH GROOM & BRIDE BOTH HOLD. THE OFFICIANT READS THE FOLLOWING:

As your gifts bring beauty and purpose to each other, / May your lives continue / to enrich and strengthen one another.

COUPLE HANDS VESSEL AND ROSE TO OFFICIANT.

### GROWING TOGETHER

Groom and Bride, as you share each passing day and as your days become years, may you continue to celebrate this tradition to remind one another of your love and commitment to each other.

*Let the marriage vessel and the rose continue to be a symbol of the beauty and strength you bring to each other. And, on your wedding anniversaries, may you add an additional rose to this marriage vessel in affirmation and renewal of your ever-growing love for one another.*

### READING

In so doing, contemplate these beautiful, ancient and wise words:

You and I have so much love  
That it burns like a fire  
In which we bake a lump of clay  
Molded into a figure of you  
And a figure of me.  
Then we take both of them  
And break them into pieces  
And mix the pieces with water  
And mold again a figure of you,  
And a figure of me.  
I am in your clay. You are in my clay...  
Kaun Tao-Sheng, 13th Century A.D.

## **A BLESSING**

*May you now go forth together in the love of God. Go forth with hope and joy and a heart full of dreams. Continue to give and to receive and to share. For the old things have passed away and a new heaven and a new earth are now your dwelling place.*

*Go and live with joy, peace, and love. Amen.*

*Groom and Bride today you have renewed the promises and vows you made to each other on your wedding day. You have symbolized the renewal of the marriage union by the joining of hands, the taking of vows, and by the symbolism of the vessel and rose ceremony.*

*It is with pleasure that I conclude the ceremony of renewing the vows of marriage that joined you and forever binds you as husband and wife. Please celebrate this renewal of vows with a sign of affection....*

It is with pleasure that I conclude the ceremony of renewing the vows of marriage that joined you and binds you as husband and wife.