

## *Ceremony Planning*

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- **Processional** - Wedding music - this can be taped or perhaps arranged with the venue
- **Opening Words:**

We are here today to celebrate the marriage of Groom and Bride. A marriage is a very special ceremony. For Groom and Bride, this ceremony means that they will count on one another, that they will treat one another with care, and that they will continue to share their lives with each other as partners, as friends, and to go on building their future together. This ceremony expresses the spiritual bond that they experience together. Their union is not a time of static contentment with each other and the world around them, but an ongoing process of exploring the fullness of their individual persons and sharing their friendship and love with you, their friends and family.

I welcome the opportunity to give voice to my conviction that every relationship of love between human beings is holy, sacred, worthy of celebration and public affirmation. I am delighted today to perform this ceremony of marriage for two people who love and honor one another.

What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined together to strengthen each other in all labor, to minister to each other in all sorrow, to share with each other in all gladness, to be one with each other in the silent unspeakable memories?

Love is not some accident we fall into - as we grow in love, then there is the possibility that our tomorrows will be even more joyous, more tender and caressing, more devoted to life flowing through us; tomorrows more full of the thrill of life even as each today is better than yesterday. Love has the capacity for that magic. Perhaps only love has such

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## Unitarian Universalist Minister

capacity. This love does not start with a public ceremony; this ceremony is only a public testimony, a community YES to what already exists.

### o **Exchange of Vows**

Groom and Bride, it is time to say the pledges which will affirm your marriage. Please take each other's hands, face each other, and repeat after me:

I, Groom, take you, Bride, to be no other than yourself. Loving and trusting what I know of you, with respect to your integrity, and with faith in your love for me, through our years together, and in all that life may bring us, I accept you as my partner for life.

I, Bride, take you, Groom, to be no other than yourself. Loving and trusting what I know of you, with respect to your integrity, and with faith in your love for me, through our years together, and in all that life may bring us, I accept you as my partner for life.

### o **Exchange of Symbols**

We have a double-ring ceremony.

Do you, Groom, take this woman Bride, to be your wedded wife, to love, honor and cherish her through sickness and in health, through times of happiness and travail, until death do you part? (Answer I will or I do) Please place the ring on her finger and repeat after me: With this ring, I thee wed, and forever pledge my devotion.

Do you Bride, take this man Groom, to be your wedded husband, to love, honor and cherish him through sickness and in health, through times of happiness and travail, until death do you part? (Answer I will or I do) Please place the ring on his finger and repeat after me: With this ring, I thee wed, and forever pledge my devotion.

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- **Pronouncement and Blessing:**

Groom and Bride, as you have chosen to join together in a bond of marriage, and have pledged yourselves to each other in the presence of family and friends, it is my joy and privilege in accordance with the law of Connecticut and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the law of Connecticut to pronounce you partners in life. You may kiss your spouse.

- **Blessing / Benediction / Closing Words**

Groom and Bride, having agreed in your desire to go forward together, seeking an even richer, deepening relationship because you see in each other that for which there are no words, and we celebrate the love that has brought you to this day.

It is my privilege to introduce for the very first time, <titles> <last name>.

- **Recessional** (if desired)