

Contemporary Ceremony

Procession

Bride and Groom stand facing each other in front of the Officiant

Welcome & Introduction:

Good afternoon everyone, and welcome to Groom and Bride's wedding ceremony! This is a special day indeed.

My name is Peter Lillico. I am an Officiant with the Humanist Association of Canada. On behalf of Groom and Bride I thank you for joining us today!

The purpose of our gathering is to solemnize the marriage of Groom and Bride.

They have selected a reading of welcoming, "What is Marriage?".

The Reading What
is marriage?

Marriage is more than the exchange of rings and
the sharing of a household;

It is much more than just living together.

It is the desire to truly want to know and
understand another human being; to feel

and share in that person's happiness, as
well as their pain. Marriage is to never

feel alone; but rather, to know that you
always have a friend; a partner in life

that you can laugh and cry with. To

know that you always have that special
someone to share your innermost

thoughts and fears, and know that you

will be heard. Marriage is helping your
partner to be the absolute best that they

can be, while still being able to
experience your own need and goals.
Marriage is love; true love that goes far
beyond passion; It is a love that you can
reach for in times of crisis as well as
joy, and know it will be there to comfort
and to share.

The Couple

Now that Groom and Bride have found each other and are about to join in
marriage,

let us remember the importance of loving today,
learning from yesterday and preparing for
tomorrow.

Nothing happens without a cause.

The union of these two people has come through love, respect and caring.
This tie has been carefully forged and will not easily be broken or
dissolved.

Although the future may bring difficult as well as happy times,
your love, your experience and your preparation will make it
possible to meet challenges and joy together. Respecting each
other,

understanding each other and cherishing
each other will make this marriage firm
and lasting.

The Parents (Optional)

We are fortunate indeed to be joined by Bride's parent(s), (Name them) and
Groom's parent(s), (Name them)

Who presents this woman to be wed to this man?"

- Bride Mother or Father or Both "I/we do."

Who presents this man to be wed to this woman?"

- Groom Mother or Father or Both "I/we do."

Thank you for your words, and for your attendance on this special day.

The Vows

Marriage is a bond to be entered into only after considerable thought and reflection.

As with any aspect of life, it has its cycles, its ups and downs, its trials and triumphs.

With full understanding of this, Groom and Bride have willingly come here today to be joined as one, and to exchange their vows with each other.

As a symbol of their union, I invite Groom and Bride to join hands.

- Groom and Bride, are you prepared to share each other's burdens between you, so that both are sustained and neither is overcome? (In Unison)- We are
- Will you share each other's dreams, and by dreaming together explore what you might accomplish together? (In Unison)- We will
- Do you wish to be joined now and for the remainder of your lives? (In Unison)- We do

I now invite Bride to share the personal vow she has chosen, to express her love and commitment to Groom.

(Bride's vows to Groom.)

Thank you, that was beautiful. In turn, I now invite Groom to share the personal vow he has chosen, to express his love and commitment to Bride.

(Groom's vows to Bride.)

The Promise (Optional)

Groom and Bride promise their love to each other forever.

- Body to body, heart to heart, life to life, they promise to give each other everything that they are and whatever they will be.
- They promise to be faithful and to do their best to always meet each other's needs.

- They promise abiding support for each other, through whatever comes their way.
- They shall be a shield for each other and shall honour each other above all others.
- They love each other body, heart, mind and everything that they are; for always and forever.

The Rings

May I have the rings please.

The wedding vows are the personal commitments of the married couple to each other.

The wedding rings are the visible symbol of their attachment.

Groom and Bride will now seal their commitment with the exchange of rings.

Groom, please repeat after me:

- I give you this ring/ as a symbol of our love. (Puts ring on her finger.)

Bride, please repeat after me:

- I give you this ring/ as a symbol of our love. (Puts ring on his finger.)

The Marriage Pronouncement

Now that Groom and Bride have vowed together to live in love, have given themselves to each other by their solemn promises and declared the same before these witnesses, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Humanist Association of Canada and the Province of Ontario, I pronounce you, Groom and Bride, to be husband and wife.

The Kiss

May you always have true happiness and bliss
as you seal your wedding vows with a kiss!

The Signing of the Register

Ladies and Gentlemen, at this time, Groom and Bride and their witnesses will sign the register.

(Before we conclude the ceremony, I would like you to know that Groom and Bride will leave for approximately one hour for formal pictures. They ask that you join them later at the reception.)

The Announcement

Ladies and Gentlemen, please stand.

It is my honour and very great pleasure to present you the newlyweds, Groom and Bride, now partners in marriage – please join me in congratulating and welcoming them!