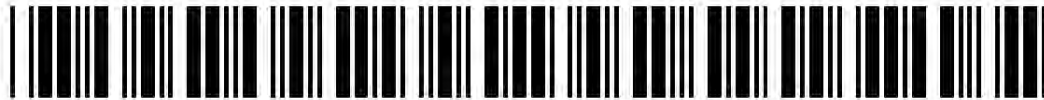


APPENDIX



DATE	DOCUMENT ID	DESCRIPTION	FILING	EXPED	CERT	COPY
05/21/2020	202014104476	DOMESTIC FOR PROFIT LLC - ARTICLES OF ORG (LCP)	99.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Receipt

This is not a bill. Please do not remit payment.

KRISTI MARIE STOKES
7452 BROADVIEW ROAD
PARMA, OH 44134

STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATE

Ohio Secretary of State, Frank LaRose
4476589

It is hereby certified that the Secretary of State of Ohio has custody of the business records for
COVENANT WEDDINGS LLC

and, that said business records show the filing and recording of:

Document(s)

Document No(s):

DOMESTIC FOR PROFIT LLC - ARTICLES OF ORG

202014104476

Effective Date: 05/20/2020



United States of America
State of Ohio
Office of the Secretary of State

Witness my hand and the seal of the
Secretary of State at Columbus, Ohio this
21st day of May, A.D. 2020.

Ohio Secretary of State

Form 533A Prescribed by:

Date Electronically Filed: 5/20/2020



Toll Free: 877.767.3453 | Central Ohio: 614.466.3910

OhioSoS.gov | business@OhioSoS.gov

File online or for more information: OhioBusinessCentral.gov

Articles of Organization for a Domestic Limited Liability Company

Filing Fee: \$99

Form Must Be Typed

CHECK ONLY ONE (1) BOX

(1) Articles of Organization for Domestic For-Profit Limited Liability Company (115-LCA)

(2) Articles of Organization for Domestic Nonprofit Limited Liability Company (115-LCA)

Name of Limited Liability Company

(Name must include one of the following words or abbreviations: "limited liability company," "limited," "LLC," "L.L.C.," "ltd.," or "ltd".)

Optional: Effective Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

(The legal existence of the corporation begins upon the filing of the articles or on a later date specified that is not more than ninety days after filing.)

Optional: This limited liability company shall exist for

Period of Existence

Optional: Purpose

COVENANT WEDDINGS LLC'S WRITTEN DECLARATION SHALL STATE ITS PURPOSE. THIS PURPOSE MAY BE AMENDED CONSISTENT WITH THE WRITTEN DECLARATION.

**** Note for Nonprofit LLCs**

The Secretary of State does not grant tax exempt status. Filing with our office is not sufficient to obtain state or federal tax exemptions. Contact the Ohio Department of Taxation and the Internal Revenue Service to ensure that the nonprofit limited liability company secures the proper state and federal tax exemptions. These agencies may require that a purpose clause be provided. **

Original Appointment of Statutory Agent

The undersigned authorized member(s), manager(s) or representative(s) of

Covenant Weddings LLC

(Name of Limited Liability Company)

hereby appoint the following to be Statutory Agent upon whom any process, notice or demand required or permitted by statute to be served upon the corporation may be served. The complete address of the agent is:

REGISTERED AGENTS INC

(Name of Statutory Agent)

6545 MARKET AVE., NORTH SUITE 100

(Mailing Address)

NORTH CANTON

(Mailing City)

OH

(Mailing State)

44721

(Mailing ZIP Code)

Acceptance of Appointment

The Undersigned, REGISTERED AGENTS INC, named herein as the
(Name of Statutory Agent)

Statutory agent for Covenant Weddings LLC
(Name of Limited Liability Company)

hereby acknowledges and accepts the appointment of statutory agent for said limited liability company.

Statutory Agent Signature BILL HAVRE
(Individual Agent's Signature / Signature on Behalf of Business Serving as Agent)

By signing and submitting this form to the Ohio Secretary of State, the undersigned hereby certifies that he or she has the requisite authority to execute this document.

Required

Articles and original appointment of agent must be signed by a member, manager or other representative.

KRISTI STOKES

Signature

By (if applicable)

If the authorized representative is an individual, then they must sign in the "signature" box and print his/her name in the "Print Name" box.

Print Name

If the authorized representative is a business entity, not an individual, then please print the entity name in the "signature" box, an authorized representative of the business entity must sign in the "By" box and print his/her name and title/authority in the "Print Name" box.

Signature

By (if applicable)

Print Name

Signature

By (if applicable)

Print Name

**WRITTEN DECLARATION OF COVENANT WEDDINGS LLC,
AN OHIO LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

INTRODUCTION

This Written Declaration (“Agreement”) of Covenant Weddings LLC, an Ohio limited liability company (“Company”), is entered into by and between the Company and Kristi M. Stokes, the sole member (“Member”) to be effective on 5-26-, 2020.

ARTICLE 1 – FORMATION

1.1 Name: The name of the Company is Covenant Weddings LLC. All business of Covenant Weddings LLC will be transacted in the Company’s name.

1.2 Articles of Organization: The Company has been formed pursuant to Chapter 1705 of the Ohio Revised Code (“Act”) by filing the Articles of Organization (“Articles”) with the Ohio Secretary of State on May 20, 2020.

1.3 Statutory Agent: The Company’s statutory agent for services and the statutory agent’s address are designated in the Articles. The statutory agent may be changed by the Member as provided in Section 1705.06.

1.4 Principal Place of Business: The Company’s principal place of business is designated in the Articles.

ARTICLE 2 – BUSINESS OF COMPANY

2.1 Business Purpose: The purpose of the Company is to carry on any lawful business or activity which may be conducted by a limited liability company organized under the Act.

2.2 Additional Purpose: The Company is a for-profit limited liability company that specializes in wedding services, which include officiating wedding ceremonies, drafting custom homilies, vows, and prayers, and assisting with other details associated with wedding ceremonies and related events. The Company is owned solely by the Member, who is a Christian minister who operates this business in accordance with her religious beliefs as a means of pursuing her spiritual calling to share her faith, celebrate marriage, and glorify God.

2.3 Beliefs, Purposes, and Practices: The Company affirms the following beliefs, purposes, and practices:

- a) The Member believes that she must live her life consistent with her faith and seek to glorify God in everything she does, including her business. To do so, the Owner tries to operate the Company and make business decisions consistent with biblical principles. Specifically, the Company seeks to love God, love its neighbor, and share God’s truth and beauty in what it does, says, and celebrates.
- b) The Member believes that she is personally called to Christian ministry.

- c) As a Christian minister, the Member believes that God has called her to use her ordination and creative writing gifts as a ministry to officiate weddings and publicly celebrate the gift of marriage. The Member sees every wedding ceremony that she officiates and writes about as an opportunity for private and public ministry. The Member pursues these opportunities through her meetings with clients, the homilies and vows she drafts for their ceremony, her public statements about their ceremony, and in her public conduct in officiating their ceremony.
- d) The Member also believes that God created the institution of marriage as a permanent, monogamous, covenantal union between one man and one woman to achieve His purposes for humanity and to reflect the love of Jesus Christ for His Church. The Member is committed to using her talents, ordination, and creative writing passion to promote and celebrate this vision of marriage and to encourage others to pursue and value this vision of marriage.
- e) To stay true to these beliefs, the Member will only officiate ceremonies and create and publish celebratory messages (such as homilies and vows) that are consistent with her religious beliefs. Based on these convictions, the Company will not officiate ceremonies, produce texts for homilies, vows, or prayers, or otherwise promote ceremonies that violate the Member’s religious beliefs or devalue her beliefs about marriage—such as ceremonies or texts that celebrate open marriages, temporary marriages, polyamorous relationships, same-sex marriages, or marriages between individuals who identify contrary to their biological sex.
- f) The Member will operate the Company according to her religious beliefs no matter how this policy affects her Company’s profits.

ARTICLE 3 – MEMBER, CONTRIBUTION, AND MANAGEMENT

3.1 Members: The names of each initial Member, their capital contributions, and percentage interests are as follows:

Name	Capital Contribution (total of \$100.00)	Percent Interest
Kristi M. Stokes	\$100.00	100%

3.2 Management: The Company shall be managed by the Member, who may act on behalf of the Company with or without a meeting and regardless of any financial interest the Member may have in such action. All decisions concerning the business affairs of the Company shall be made by the Member. Subject to the Act, the Articles, and this Agreement, the Member shall have authority to do every act consistent with the law. Actions by the Member shall bind the Company if such action is apparently carrying on in the usual way the business or affairs of the Company. The Member shall have all powers and duties as set forth in Chapter 1705 of the Ohio Revised Code. No person shall have any duty or obligation to inquire into the authority or power of the Member regarding the Member’s actions on behalf of the Company. The failure of the Company to observe any

formalities or requirements relating to the exercise of its powers or the management of its business or affairs under this Agreement or the Act shall not be grounds for imposing liability on the Member for liabilities, debts and obligations of the Company solely for being the sole Member of the Company.

3.3 Member Liability and Indemnification: Except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles, or this Agreement, the Member shall have no personal liability, solely as a member, for any liabilities, obligations or losses of the Company beyond the Member's contributions. The Company shall indemnify the Member for all costs, expenses, losses, liabilities, obligations, and damages paid or accrued by such Member in connection with the business of the Company, or because the Member is a member. Company may advance expenses incurred by the Member in connection with the business of the Company, or in any legal action arising from action taken by the Member in connection with the business of the Company, all to the fullest extent provided or allowed by the laws of Ohio. The Company may, in its sole discretion, also indemnify any or all employees or agents of the Company for all costs, losses, liabilities and damages paid or accrued by the agent or employee in connection with the business of the Company to the fullest extent provided or allowed by the laws of Ohio.

3.4 Compensation: The Member shall be reimbursed for all reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of the Company and shall be entitled to reasonable compensation for time spent managing the Company, in an amount to be determined from time to time by the Member.

3.5 Duty of Loyalty: The Member may engage in business and investment activities other than the Company, and need not account to the Company for profits or remuneration gained in such activities. The Member may enter into transactions considered to be competitive with or similar to those of the Company. The Member may utilize or appropriate a business opportunity beneficial to the Company, and the Company waives any right or claim to participate therein. The Member has no duty to account to the Company or to hold as trustee for the Company any property, profit or benefit derived by the Member in the formation, conduct or winding-up of the Company or from the use or appropriation of any Company property.

3.6 Other Self Interest: The Member does not violate a duty or obligation to the Company merely because the Member's conduct furthers the Member's own interests. Acting in the interest of the Member shall not be grounds for imposing liability on the Member for liabilities, debts, and obligations of the Company solely for being a member. The Member may lend money to and transact other business with the Company, and the rights and obligations of the Member in such transactions shall be the same as those of a person who is not a member of the Company. No transactions with the Company shall be voidable solely because the Member has a direct or indirect interest in the transaction.

ARTICLE 4 – TAXES

4.1 Elections: The Member may make any tax elections for the Company allowed under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time (“Code”), or the tax laws of any state or other jurisdiction having taxing jurisdiction over the Company. It is the intent of the Member and the Company that the Company is to be disregarded as an entity separate from the Member for purposes of the Code.

4.2 Taxes of Taxing Jurisdiction: To the extent that the laws of any taxing jurisdiction require, the Member will prepare, execute, and submit an agreement indicating that the Member will make timely income tax payments to the taxing jurisdiction and that the Member accepts personal jurisdiction of the taxing jurisdiction with regard to the collection of income taxes attributable to the Member’s income and interest and penalties assessed on such income, if such agreement is required by the taxing jurisdiction. If the Member fails to provide such agreement, the Company may withhold and pay over to such taxing jurisdiction the amount of tax, penalty, and interest determined under the laws of the taxing jurisdiction with respect to such income. Any such payments with respect to the income of the Member shall be treated as a distribution for purposes of Article 5.

ARTICLE 5 – DISTRIBUTIONS

The Company may make distributions at such times and in such amounts as determined by the Member. No distribution shall be declared and paid unless, after the distribution is made, the assets of the Company are in excess of all liabilities of the Company.

ARTICLE 6 – DISPOSITION OF MEMBERSHIP INTEREST AND ADMISSION OF ASSIGNEES AND ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

6.1 Disposition: The Member’s membership interest is transferable either voluntarily or by operation of law. The Member may dispose of all or a portion of the Member’s membership interest. Upon the disposition of a portion of the Member’s membership interest, the transferee shall be admitted as a substitute member as to the transferred interest upon the completion of the transfer without further action. Upon the transfer of the Member’s entire membership interest (other than a temporary transfer or transfer as a pledge or security interest), the Member shall cease to be a Member of the Company and shall have no further rights or obligations under this Agreement, except that the Member shall have the right to such information as may be necessary for the computation of the Member’s tax liability.

6.2 Admission of Additional Members: The Member may, in the Member’s sole discretion, admit additional members and determine the capital contributions of such additional members.

ARTICLE 7 – DISSOLUTION AND WINDING UP

7.1 Dissolution: The Company shall be dissolved and its affairs wound up, upon the will of the Member, or at such time as the Company has no members. Notwithstanding any provision of the Act to the contrary, and except as otherwise provided in the immediately preceding sentence, the Company shall continue and not dissolve as a result of the death, retirement, resignation, expulsion, bankruptcy, or dissolution of any Member or any other event that terminates the continued membership of the Member.

7.2 Effect of Dissolution: Upon dissolution, the Company shall cease carrying on as distinguished from the winding up of the Company business, but the Company is not terminated, but continues until the winding up of the affairs of the Company is completed and the certificate of dissolution has been issued by the Ohio Secretary of State.

7.3 Distribution of Assets on Dissolution: Upon the winding up of the Company, the Company's assets shall be distributed as follows: (1) to creditors, including the Member if she is a creditor, to the extent permitted by law, in satisfaction of Company liabilities; and (2) to the Member. Such distributions may be in cash, property other than cash, or partly in both, as determined by the Member.

7.4 Winding Up and Articles of Dissolution: The winding up of a limited liability company shall be completed when all debts, liabilities, and obligations of the limited liability company have been paid and discharged or reasonable adequate provision thereof has been made, and all of the remaining property and assets of the limited liability company have been distributed to the Member. Upon completion of winding up of the Company, the Member or other person designated by the Member or the Member's legal representative shall deliver articles of dissolution to the Secretary of State for filing. The articles of dissolution shall set forth the information required by the Act.

ARTICLE 8 – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

8.1 Governing Law: This Agreement shall be governed by and construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio.

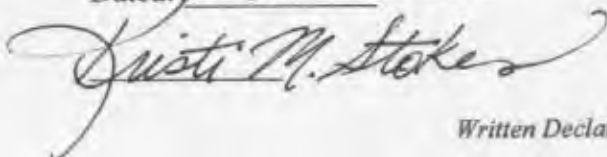
8.2 Amendments: This Agreement may be amended or modified from time to time only by a written instrument adopted by the Member and the Company and executed by the Member and the Company. In the event that there ever becomes more than one Member, this Agreement shall be amended to reflect the fact that there is more than one Member and the terms shall be approved by all Members.

8.3 Entire Agreement: This Agreement represents the entire agreement between the Member and the Company.

8.4 Severance: Every provision of this Agreement is intended to be severable. The invalidity or illegality of any particular provision of this Agreement will not affect the other provisions, and this Agreement will be construed in all respects as if such invalid or illegal provisions were omitted.

THE UNDERSIGNED, being the sole member of Covenant Weddings LLC, evidences her adoption and ratification of the foregoing Operating Agreement of the Company.

Dated: 5-26-2020



Written Declaration of Covenant Weddings LLC
Page 5 of 6

Member, Kristi M. Stokes

COVENANT WEDDINGS
Celebrating beautiful stories about love and marriage.

SERVICES BLOG ABOUT CONTACT



Officiant Services



Composition Services



Officiant + Composition Services



Everyone has a love story, but not everyone knows how to tell it. I do.

As a creative writer and minister, I love to celebrate beautiful stories about love and marriage. It is my true passion to help couples and to proclaim the gift of their love by officiating their wedding and by creating a specially designed wedding script that I custom make to bless each unique love story.

[More About Me](#)

TESTIMONIALS

"I don't even know where to begin! Kristi was everything I could have dreamt and more. Our ceremony was so special and the script she wrote expressed our love so perfectly! Every detail of our ceremony was perfect. She even typed our entire ceremony out beautifully to give to us, and it's framed on our wall."

-Taylor Pantani, Bride

"Kristi is such a friendly, professional and knowledgeable officiant, she took ALL the stress out of planning our ceremony. I highly recommend her services."

-Kate Bohach, Bride

"Kristi was an amazing officiant for our wedding in December 2018. She was very flexible with the type of ceremony and the length of time we wanted it to be. Kristi also made it feel like a very personal service. I couldn't have asked for a better person to officiate our ceremony. If you are getting married and want someone who cares, is flexible, eloquent, and has a heart after God, Kristi is your woman."

-Sarah Ritchie, Bride



Let's work together!

Contact me



SERVICES BLOG ABOUT
CONTACT

COVENANT WEDDINGS

Celebrating beautiful stories about love and marriage.

SERVICES



If you are looking for an officiant who will care for every detail and a script that is tailor made for your individual wedding, let's connect over a cup of something warm and I will weave your story into a ceremony made just for you and your special day!

Contact Me



Officiant Services
Only \$200



Composition Services
Only \$300



Officiant – Composition Services
Starting at \$400

I provide personalized Officiating and Composition Services to celebrate your marriage! I would love to provide you both services—officiating your beautiful wedding while also writing a fully customized script with a homily, vows, and prayers fashioned just for you.

I am also happy to just officiate without a specially written script or to only create a wedding script, homily, vows, and prayers for another celebrant to perform. Do you want to write your own vows, but don't feel confident in doing so? I offer assistance in writing personal vows as well and will help you formulate your words of love into something you will feel confident in performing on your special day, something you will cherish for a lifetime!

Let's get together and figure out what works best for you.

More about what I do:

I **Officiate Weddings** to create an effortless and beautiful ceremony so that you can enjoy your special day. Being a minister isn't just my profession, it's my passion. I believe marriage is a sacred covenant and I'm always honored when couples trust me to help create a joyous ceremony they can remember fondly for the rest of their lives.

I will help prepare all the logistics for the ceremony, from making sure that your guests feel welcomed, to coordinating the ceremony itself (including any day-of surprises), to ensuring your marriage license gets filed. If desired, I'll pray for you often, help you however I can, and deliver a homily, vows, and prayers that I hope will bless you for years to come. I want to make sure your special day is a beautiful witness to your love and marriage, and I want you to be completely focused on each other and that moment when you begin your new adventure together.

I **Compose Stories** to capture your unique relationship and love for each other. I love melding my love for writing with my passion for ministry, and I enjoy meeting with you, learning your heart, and weaving together a script to display your love for all to witness on your special day.

If you hire me to craft your wedding script, homily, vows, and prayers, here's what I will do.

I will create a specially designed script tailor-made to celebrate your relationship. I write homilies that tell your unique love story, vows personalized to you and your spouse, and prayers inspired by scripture and the Biblical foundation of your relationship. To do that, we will meet in person initially, then follow up with emails and phone calls in order to get to know each other so I can customize everything to your beautiful marriage. I'll do everything I can to create a script, homily, vows, and prayers that will bless you in your marriage and encourage you whenever you look back at them.



★ Like

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BLOG



Behind The Name



I chose the name Covenant Weddings for my business to communicate my belief that marriage is a solemn promise made before God.

In the Bible, a covenant is a special kind of commitment that is personal and unbreakable. Ultimately marriage as a covenant points us to the hope we have in Christ, who died for his bride, the Church.

-Kristi



Be the first to like this.

To Build A Lasting And Happy Marriage



“Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens. A good marriage must be created. In marriage 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 at no time taking the other for granted; the courtship should not end with the honeymoon, it should continue through the years.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.

It is standing together facing the world. It is forming a circle of love that gathers the whole family.

It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.

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

It is not looking for perfection in each other.

It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humour.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

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

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

It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is not only marrying the right partner; it is being the right partner.”

– Wilferd Arlan Peterson

Let Covenant Weddings guide you in the pursuit of this kind of love. Premarital counseling now available! Contact us for pricing and more detailed information!

- Couple John & Taylor Pantani
- Photo cred: @EmilyRichardsPhotography
- Venue @TheColumbiaballroom
- Officiant @CovenantWeddings



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I Am Praying For You



For those who grieve

For those who fear

For those who weep

For those who are sick

For those who are lost

For those who are addicted

For those who have no hope

For those who are cast aside

For those who are misunderstood

For those who are alone

For those who are in need

For those who cannot forgive themselves

For those who cannot forgive others

For those who are enslaved by anger

For those who are filled with anxiety

For those who are overcome by depression

For those who are unsure of their future

For those who are bound by the past

For those who are fearful for their children

For those who are fearful about their marriages

For those who are dying

For those who are barely hanging on

For those who are loosing faith

For those who are overworked

For those who are underappreciated

For those who are fearful of change

For those who are struggling with their health

For those who are feeling unloved

For those who are wrestling shame

For those who are battling confusion

For those who are soul weary

I am praying for you.

-Kristi



Be the first to like this.

Lord, Save Me



For those who don't know... I'm an actual Rev. I have an MA in pastoral ministry and am working on my PhD as well. So, I actually can write a sermon. Check it out!

Peter stepped out onto the water. For a moment the dude was steady, stable. He might have even thrown a moonwalk or two in. He was confident. His eyes and spirit and feet they were locked into Jesus.

I wonder what was it that caused him to take his eyes off of Jesus and place it onto fear?

Did he see a storm brewing in the distance? An enemy approaching under the depths of the sea? Maybe the vastness of the path before him made him question his capabilities? It could've been the darkness and the unknown. Did he view everything before, in and around him through his eyes or Jesus'?

I'm guessing, his own.

And down he went. Gurgle, choke, deep breath, drowning, gulp, overwhelmed, fear encompassing!

I think many of us can relate to good old Peter. Before Covid-19 came a long we were pretty steady. We were grateful for a new year. Hopeful for the new things ahead. Our heads were high. Our faith was locked in and we were moon walkin' it baby!

Then the unknown came.

We sank.

Into fear, worry, anxiety and even anger.

We sank further.

How am I going to pay these bills? Be off work for how long? Close my business? My church? Say what?

Be a teacher to MY children are you kidding me? And someone else's at the same time ? Ha!

This is a cruel joke right?

Work from home with Bobby smacking Emmy and me screaming in between work conferences and oh God don't even get me started on these video chats for work. Have you even seen my hair?

If my husband eats one more Oreo I'm going to stuff the whole pack where the sun don't shine!

I'm alone! So alone!

Do I have enough food? God, somebody give me toilet paper!!!

What about my elderly loved ones? Will they survive? My family on the front lines? These walls are closing in. I'm still working and even more hours! These people are cray! Will I be ok?

Sinking.... sinking...

God! Where are you? You know I can barely swim alone, how am I going to carry all of these cares and worries too!!! It's so dark down here God. I feel like I'm losing oxygen. I can't breathe.

Peter cried...

"Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." (Matthew 14:28-33)

Often the storms we need saving from are found in our own minds! We sink there, long before our physical bodies follow!

It simply takes us saying "Lord, save me" for the storm in our mind and heart to calm. And oh, how sweetly he shows up!

Silence, peace, steady footing, light shining, perspective corrected! Even miracles begin to occur.

I love that Peter chose to use the word "Lord" it means "someone or something having power, authority, or influence; a master or ruler".

Wow! Today Jesus is asking won't you let the power, authority, influence, master and ruler of your heart—bring peace to your storm today?

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

-Kristi

Covenant Weddings



Be the first to like this.

Have You Forgotten?

Have You Forgotten?

by Kristi M. Stokes

We are living in unprecedented times.

They can bring out the best or worst in us, but it is our choice.

Fear and anxiety are rampant.

Stress is at an all time high.

Joy is limited.

We are confined to our homes.

Date night? What even is that right now?

Some are working some are not.

Kids are home and everywhere and into everything.

Teacher? Who me? Yeah, I don't think so.

Breaks? Non-existent.

He's not picking up his slack.

She's nagging to no end.

Kids are fighting.

The dog is breathing too loud, has his breath always been this bad?

The walls are closing in.

You are looking at your partner as if they are a stranger.

Who is this person you married?

What was I even thinking?

So and so's husband is remodeling everything and mine is watching Netflix.

His wife is cooking and baking, painting and sewing masks for the frontliners.

My wife is complaining, yelling, she won't get off my back!

Have you forgotten?

Have you forgotten the way he made your heart melt when he said I love you for the first time?

Have you forgotten the way your heart would skip a beat when she wore those jeans and that white t-shirt?

Have you forgotten the exact moment you knew he was the one or the moment you asked her to be your forever?

Have you forgotten to do the little things? Have you forgotten to steal a few kisses or to give that occasional butt tap?

How bout them attaboys?

The dancing and laughing for no reason.

The innocence.

When is the last time you heard your partners heart and then acknowledged their side of a two part story and then willingly did the work to fix you?

When did you forget all of the things you've been through together?

The hard stuff, the good stuff, the wins and the losses and everything in between?

When did you forget you play for the same team? Friendly fire is inexcusable.

COVID-19 May break some unions that were teetering on the brink long before, but it also has the potential to kick start a passionate comeback!

We are working on house projects, trying to utilize our time well, but let us not forget the moments that sparked and sealed our love. Let us not neglect to use this time to breathe fresh air on a dimly lit ember that was once a fiery flame.

Hear—receive

Receive—work

Work—heal

Heal—accept

Accept—forgive

Forgive—peace

Peace—Joy

Joy—new start

New start—forever

Remember.



Be the first to like this.

Love Is...

On this day "of love" let us reflect on the purest definition of love found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7...

Love is...

patient,

love is kind.

It does not envy,

it does not boast,

it is not proud.

It does not dishonor others,

it is not self-seeking,

it is not easily angered,

it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

Love always protects,

always trusts,

always hopes,

always perseveres.

Happy Valentines Day, love birds!

-Kristi, The Officiant



★ Like

Be the first to like this.

Happy Anniversary

December 29, 2018 I had the high honor of officiating Gage and Sarah Ritchie's wedding.

It was a beautiful day in Florida, filled with so much love from family and friends, but that love pales in comparison to the authentic and sincere love shared between Gage and Sarah! One down many, many more to go! I'm rooting you on!

Happy 1st Anniversary Gage and Sarah! Thank you for entrusting your special day to me.

-Kristi, The Officiant



Framed Vows

After personally writing John & Taylor's wedding script I had the words printed, presented it to them after their wedding and encouraged them to read these words to each other every year on their anniversary.

Taylor did one better!

She put the script in a frame and mounted it on the wall, so that they could reflect on their love for each other always. Have I mentioned how much I love this couple??

-Kristi

It's official!

It's official! Mr. & Mrs. Pantani! Beautiful couple, beautiful family and friends, and an absolutely beautiful wedding and celebration from start to finish. It was my great honor to officiate John & Taylor's wedding. – Kristi, The Officiant

by Covenant Weddings · October 13, 2019

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ABOUT

Hi! My name is Reverend Kristi Stokes.



Everyone has a love story, but not everyone knows how to tell it.

I do.

I'm a creative writer, a licensed minister with an MA in Pastoral Ministry and I'm currently working on my Ph.D. in Chaplaincy.

I have many years under my belt as a minister and it isn't just my profession, it's my passion.

As the owner of Covenant Weddings, it is my sole desire to weave your love story and perfectly put it on display for all to witness on your special day. I work very hard to make sure each couple not only gets the wedding script and ceremony of their dreams, but

that their minds are put at ease as I perform all of the officiating details. It is my true joy to celebrate with you as you two become one in marriage.

If you are looking for an officiant who will care for every detail and who will work hard to thread a beautiful script that is tailor made for your individual wedding... Let's connect over a cup of something warm and I will weave your story into a ceremony made just for you and your special day!

"Kristi is such a friendly, professional and knowledgeable officiant, she took ALL the stress out of planning our ceremony.

I highly recommend her services.

Thank you again, Kristi!"

– Kate Bohach

My Call to Celebrate Marriage

Since I first came to know God, He has called me to ministry. In the past, this calling brought me to Zimbabwe as a missionary. Then, to downtown Cleveland, serving the poor. Today, God has called me to officiate and write about weddings—proclaiming the beauty of marriage to others.

This is my great privilege. I believe that marriage is a special gift from God that represents Jesus's love for his Church. Through this special lifelong covenant between one man and one woman, God achieves His purpose for humanity and reveals His good news for all to see (Genesis 1:28; Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:25-33).

One of my greatest joys is to celebrate this relationship with others. I cherish the opportunity to learn a couple's love story and draft homilies, vows, and prayers celebrating these stories—stories that echo the greatest love story of all: Jesus sacrificing himself for others. I also treasure the times I participate in a couple's wedding ceremony—solemnizing and blessing their marriage. In all this, I rejoice because I get to celebrate the gifts of love and marriage with each couple I serve.

At the same time, officiating and writing about weddings are some of my weightiest duties. Because marriage is created by God, I must officiate and write consistent with His call. That means, I can't compose homilies, vows, or prayers or officiate ceremonies that celebrate any marriage contrary to God's design.

For example, I cannot officiate or write for ceremonies demeaning the seriousness of marriage or ceremonies celebrating polygamous relationships, open-marriages, same-sex marriages, or marriages including a man or woman who identifies contrary to his or her biological sex.

And though I can't celebrate everything, my call is still to show love to everyone. My deepest belief is that each of us are made in God's image and deserve to be shown love. So please know, you are loved. But loving God for me means keeping His commands and staying true to His calling (John 14:15). And it's my mission to do precisely that—celebrate marriage as He defines it.



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Let's work together!



Send me a message:

Name (required)

Fiancé/Fiancée's name (required)

Contact email (required)

Contact number (required)

Wedding date and location (City, State)

(required)

Wedding website or social media handle

How did you hear about me?

What is your religious preference? (required)

Anything else I should know about your big day?

Submit



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COVENANT WEDDINGS, Blog at WordPress.com.

UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH MINISTRIES

Credentials of Ministry

THIS IS TO CERTIFY

Kristi Marie Stokes

That The Bearer Hereof Has Been Ordained

On this day, the 5th of November, in the year 2018

*and is officially recognized as a member of the Universal Life Church
and has all rights and privileges to perform all duties of the ministry.*



[Signature]
CHAPLAIN, BR. MARTIN



1-800-895-118



In and for the State of Ohio:
In re: Letter of Good Standing

Kristi Marie Stokes has requested this Letter of Good Standing. We acknowledge that their ordination is in good standing with The Universal Life Church Monastery and we grant them the authority to perform the sacrament of marriage. This minister's credentials of ministry have no expiration date and have been verified this day.

Please direct any further needs to our headquarters below.



I certify that the above declaration is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated: November 6, 2018

J.S. Johnston, Church Administrator
State of Washington
County of King

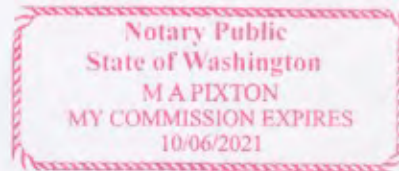
Administrative Assistant of the Church

Administrative Assistant of the Church

I certify that I know or have satisfactory evidence that J.S. Johnston is the person who appeared before me and said person acknowledged that he signed this instrument and acknowledged it to be his free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes mentioned in the instrument. Witness my hand and official seal.

M.A. Pixton
Notary Public
Appointment expires: 10-06-2021

11/06/2018
Dated



1300895-118



2730 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98134
P.(206)285-1086 F.(206)285-7888

State of Ohio

Authority to Solemnize Marriages

conferred by

Secretary of State of Ohio

In the Name and By the Authority of the State of Ohio

KRISTI MARIE STOKES

of the

UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH MINISTRIES

having produced credentials of his/her being a Regularly Ordained or Licensed Minister of the above-named Religious Society or Congregation, is hereby authorized and Licensed to Solemnize Marriages within this State, so long as he/she shall continue as a regular Minister in such Society or Congregation.



In Testimony whereof, I hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of said office in Columbus, Ohio, this 30th day of August, 2019.

Frank LaRose
Secretary of State

107482-2019



Covenant Weddings



August 27, 2019 · 🌐

Hello! Welcome to my page "The Officiant"! I thought I'd take a moment to explain how and why this page came to be.

My name is Kristi Stokes, and I have been in ministry, of some capacity or another, since I was a teenager. I have worked as a children's minister, youth pastor, church administrator, associate pastor, missionary and pastors assistant. I have also worked with homeless ministries, drug/alcohol rehabs and street ministries.

I am a nationally licensed officiant. I have a Bachelors degree in Biblical Studies, a Masters degree in Pastoral Ministry and I am currently working on my PhD in Chaplaincy.

As you can see, my passion is for God's people and to minister to them in all facets.

I am also a creative writer who has dabbled in blogging for various churches and ministries.

In the last few years I have been asked to officiate weddings, funerals and special events. This has become quite a passion for me; melding ministry with writing!

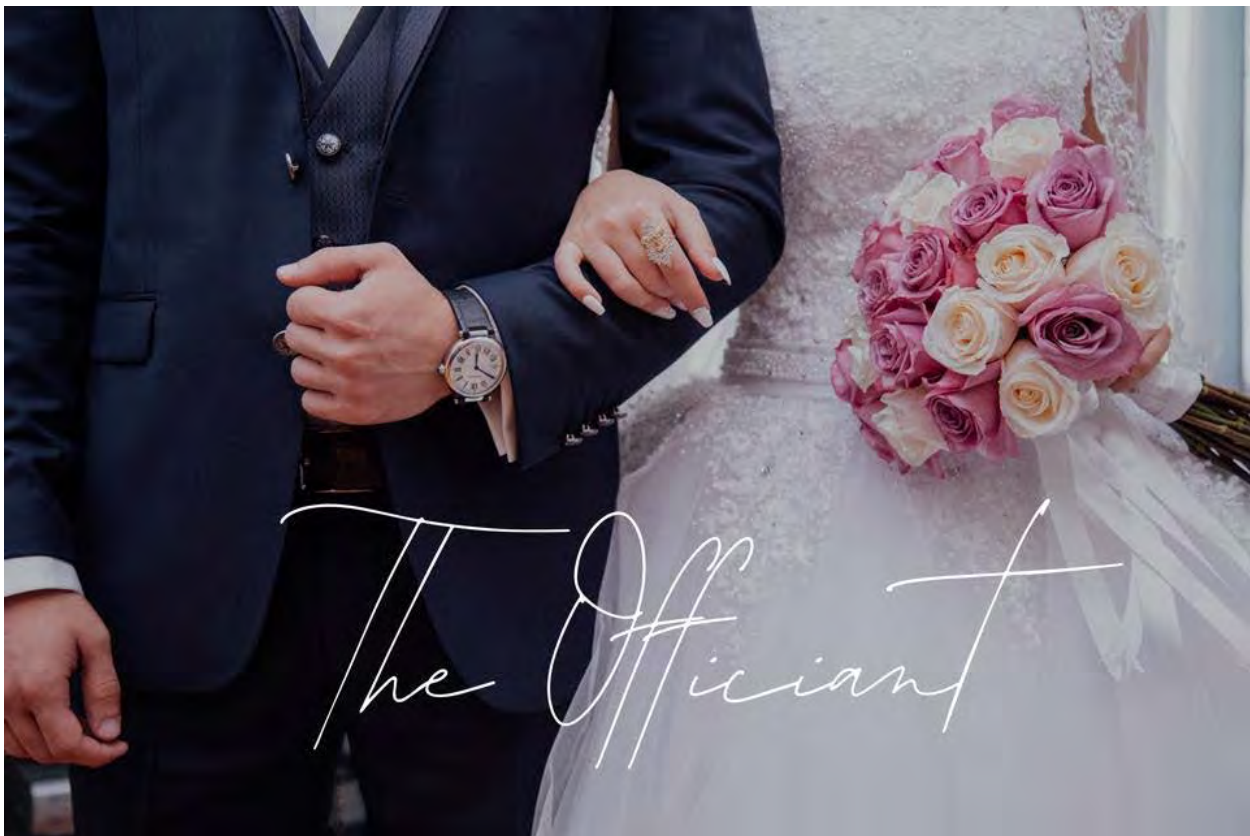
I take great pride and find such joy meeting with each individual or couple, hearing their hearts, taking notes and weaving a script that matches their story and performing it on their special day.

Recently I was encouraged to start a social media page describing what I do, so that those that have entrusted their special day to me, can refer others!

So alas, here we are "The Officiant"!

If you or someone you know are looking for an out of the box script, that is tailor made to each individual wedding, special ceremony, wedding renewal or funeral, I just might be your gal!

Let's connect over a cup of something warm and weave your story into a script, made just for you and your special day!



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WHEN:

Sunday, August 23, 2020 11am-4pm

Online

Let's talk...

App. 48
1/6

WHERE:

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VIEW ONLINE

Get all of the things you love about the print magazine – from the fabulous Real Weddings and gorgeous photos to helpful wedding planning tips – in our interactive digital edition. If that's not quite enough to satisfy your wedding addiction, we invite you to [pick-up](#) a physical copy of the magazine at [these locations](#).



CLEVELAND MAGAZINE

IN THE CURRENT ISSUE

Travel theme ideas

Cleveland Photo Ops

Local Real Weddings

DISCOUNTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Rock The House Entertainment:

Mention their ad and receive a complimentary upgrade to your uplighting or photo booth – pg.3 & pg.121

Men's Wearhouse:

With 6 paid rental packages grooms get a free custom suit, \$400 shopping spree – pg. 127

Unlimited Trips.com:

Call for a free honeymoon or destination wedding consultation (\$100 value). Mention promo code TB19 – pg.75

Colozza's Bakery:

Free wedding cake tastings and consultations – pg. 139

High Voltage Indoor Karting:

Save 10% off your event by visiting www.highvoltagekarting.com/wedding – pg. 139

Cleveland Wedding Gown Preservation:

\$25 off wedding gown preservation coupon – pg. 142



AKRON/CANTON MAGAZINE

IN THE CURRENT ISSUE

Local Floral and Cake Inspiration

Wayne County Wedding

Northeast Ohio Wine Wedding

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Save up to \$5000 off any event booked in 2020 and 2021 Call for detail ! pg 97

Acme Fresh Markets:

Free toss bouquet with wedding flower order (minimum order of \$250) – pg. 101

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High Voltage Indoor Karting:

Save 10% on your event by visiting www.highvoltagekarting.com/wedding – pg. 121

LOOKBOOKS



FALL WEDDING DRESSES

We've compiled over 400 pages of designer gowns from Fall 2018 Bridal Collections. Explore 15 different designers to find the features and styles you love. Whether you have a silhouette in mind or no idea where to start, this wedding gown Look Book will help you find your dream wedding dress. **Sponsored by Lavender Bridal Salon**

START SHOPPING



VENUE REVIEW

Northeast Ohio has so many beautiful venues to choose from that it can quickly get overwhelming. Our Venue Review offers you an exclusive side-by-side comparison of prices, amenities, catering options, and more for over 60 local wedding venues! **Sponsored by The New Center at NEOMED**

CHECK IT OUT



WEDDING DRESS SHOPPING GUIDE

This Shopping Guide will teach you how to compliment your body shape in the best way! From learning your shape to highlighting your favorite features to finding your perfect silhouette, this lookbook will make your wedding dress shopping trip a breeze!

Sponsored by Alterations Express

CHECK IT OUT



PLUS SIZE GOWNS LOOKBOOK

Page after page of 70+ plus size wedding dresses to make it easier to decide which features you like most and help you imagine just how you'll look wearing that dress. And the best part is that these gorgeous dresses by top designers can be found at a bridal shop in Northeast Ohio!

Sponsored by Koda Bridal

CHECK IT OUT



CAKE LOOKBOOK

One of the best parts about working at Today's Bride is looking through page after page of beautiful wedding cakes. As we were "ooing" and "aahing" over the latest trends and designs – fully content and craving sweets – we thought to ourselves Let's share this blissful feeling with brides! If anyone would appreciate the inspiration these cakes provide, it's you!

Sponsored by Nothing Bundt Cakes

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Updated March 16, 2020

(Review the previous version [here](#))

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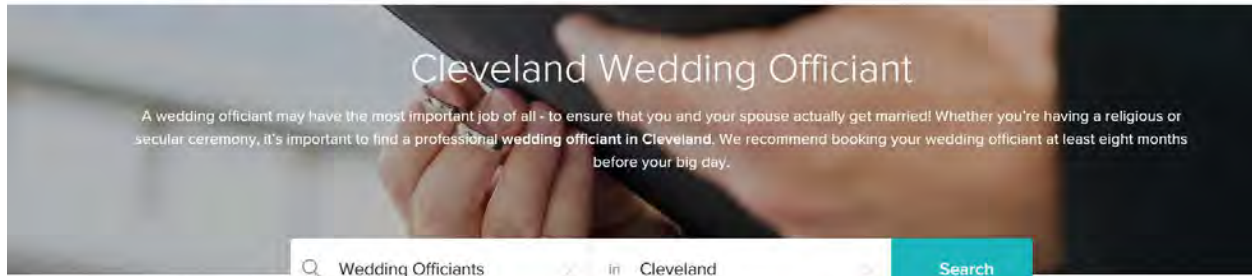
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VOWS & READINGS

The Scoop on Hiring a Professional Wedding Vow Writer



By Jenn Sanchez
January 6, 2020 14



If you're struggling to write your vows, hiring a professional wedding vow writer may be a good option. Here's everything you need to know about hiring a vow-writing pro.



MOST POPULAR ON WEDDINGWIRE

- 17 Unique Wedding Ceremony Readings Your Guests Will Love
- Here's How to Write Funny Wedding Vows That Are Actually Funny
- These Fresh Wedding Blessings Make Sweet Ceremony Readings
- The Wedding Vows Template You Totally Need

There are plenty of ways to add personalized touches to your wedding day, and one of the most popular and meaningful ones is by [writing your own vows](#). Many couples choose to do this for a myriad of reasons. "People want their vows to be personal, real, touching and honest," says [Jenny Block](#), author, writer, and speaker from Houston, Texas.

The issue, however, is that not everyone is good at putting into words what they're feeling inside. That's certainly no reason to forgo [personalized vows](#) in favor of something stale and scripted. Enter: professional vow writers, writing experts who

work alongside you to help create powerful vows that are your own. “A vow writer will ask you questions about you and your partner and then use that information to write vows that ring true for you both,” says Block. “The best vow writers make the vows sound like something you would say and not like a script.”

Professional vow writer Karen Davis of Rhymes by Design explains that hiring someone to write your vows is now commonplace, and akin to hiring a cake baker or photographer. “Crafting custom vows retains the spirit of the person or couple, while reaching and touching everyone beyond the basic message,” she says. “It’s a bit like gift-wrapping: adding a sparkle and flair that has a lasting impact well beyond the moment.”

So how do you go about hiring a vow writer—and what should you know about the process? Keep reading for some informative answers!

Where can you find a professional vow writer?

Just like you’d find any other wedding vendor, you can find vow writer pretty much anywhere—at wedding shows or online (there are some listed in WeddingWire’s vendor directory, too). Oftentimes people stumble upon a wedding vow writer. “They Google ‘Wedding Vow ideas’ and a vow writing website pops up,” says Geoff Woliner, founder of Winning Wit. “Then they take a look and realize, ‘Wait...I can hire someone to do this for me while I open another bottle of wine and binge something on Netflix? Sweet. Where do I sign up?’” If you do go the online route, it’s important to vet a vow writer, as you would any other vendor. Block suggests asking to see references and previous work as well as speaking to past clients to get a clearer idea of how well the writer was able to capture someone else’s vows.

How does a vow writer work?

Every vow writer works differently, according to Avery Morgan, Senior Editor at EduBirdie, which specializes in wedding speech-writing. “We take a hands-on approach to make sure we have all of the details and insights we need to craft the perfect vows,” she says. “Our writers want to get a true feeling for the couple, so we’ll usually ask about how the couple met, the moment they fell in love, favorite memories, the silly things they bicker about, where they’ve traveled together, what they love to do together, and other similar details.” These quick facts give a vow writer the tools he or she needs to craft something memorable.

How do vow writers make the vows personal?

Once a vow writer connects with a couple, they typically send a questionnaire that gathers all of the necessary information from them. “This is the secret sauce that separates your vows from something you’d copy and paste off the internet,” says Woliner. “We get to learn all about you—your individual backgrounds, how you met, some stories you’ve shared together, some inside jokes, when you knew the other

Need (Adm t t)

5

15 Ceremony Read ngs from Mov es for a C nemat c Wedd ng

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App. 68

**COVENANT WEDDINGS LLC
WEDDING SERVICES AGREEMENT**

This Agreement contains the legally binding terms between Covenant Weddings LLC (“Minister”) and _____ (“Client”) entered into on _____.

Wedding Services

Under this Agreement, the below terms shall have the following meanings:

- “Composition Services” means the Minister’s drafting of a customized wedding message (“homily”), vows, and/or prayers for the Client and shall include providing a physical copy of the written homily, vows, and/or prayers to the Client and may include blogging positively about Client’s wedding on Minister’s website or social media sites.
- “Officiating Services” means the Minister’s officiating of the wedding ceremony, and shall include delivering the homily, administering the vows, and signing and submitting the Client’s marriage license. Client must acquire a valid marriage license and the marriage license must be on the premises when the Officiating Services are performed. At the Client’s discretion, this may also include assisting the couple in planning and preparing the wedding ceremony; leading the Client through the wedding rehearsal; and attending and praying at the Client’s rehearsal dinner and/or wedding reception.
- “Wedding Services” means Composition Services and Officiating Services collectively.

Requested Wedding Services

Minister and Client agree that Minister shall provide the following services:

Composition Services: Homily _____ Vows _____ Prayer(s) _____

Officiating Services: _____

Minister and Client also agree that Minister shall provide the following elective Officiating Services:

- _____ Assist in Planning and Preparing Wedding Ceremony
- _____ Coordinate Wedding Rehearsal
- _____ Pray During Rehearsal Dinner
- _____ Pray During Wedding Reception

Fees

Client agrees to pay \$ _____ to engage Minister to provide the above requested Wedding Services. Client agrees that 1/2 of this payment is due immediately upon the execution of this contract as a deposit to reserve Minister’s Wedding Services and 1/2 of this payment will be due no later than one (1) day before the date Minister is scheduled to provide the requested Wedding Services to Client.

If additional charges are incurred after the date of this Agreement, Client’s agreement to incur additional charges may be memorialized in any writing, including email, and will be deemed incorporated into this Agreement and subject to its terms.

Schedule

Minister will provide the Client with Composition Services by _____ (date).

Minister will provide the Client with Officiating Services on _____ (date & time) at _____ (location).

(If applicable) additional Officiating Services will include _____ to be completed by _____ (date & time) at _____ (location).

For all requested Officiating Services, Minister shall plan and make every effort to arrive at least 30 minutes before the time(s) listed above.

Planning the Wedding Services

Minister will schedule a consultation with Client in person, by phone, or by an online videoconference platform of Minister’s choosing. The consultation may include discussing the schedule of the Wedding Services, the details of the Wedding Services, Client’s relationship, engagement, hopes for marriage, Client’s input for the wedding ceremony’s substance and order, Client’s input for content of the homily, vows, and/or prayers, Minister’s recommendations for Wedding Services, and any other subject Minister determines would be helpful in order to render the requested Wedding Services.

Expenses & Travel

In addition to the above fee, Client agrees to reimburse Minister’s expenses, including parking and travel expenses according to the following schedule:

Travel Distance from Zip Code 44130	Expense
< 60 miles	No additional expense.
60 ≤ 120 miles	\$50
120 ≤ 360 miles	\$100
> 360 miles	Airfare necessary.

Client agrees to provide Minister with detailed directions to any of the above listed locations at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the ceremony or event.

Minister’s Editorial Control and Creative License

Minister is not obligated to accept any request for Wedding Services. Client agrees that Client has reviewed or discussed Minister’s prior Wedding Services and has a reasonable expectation that Minister will provide the requested Wedding Services in a similar manner. Minister agrees that the requested Wedding Services will be of a similar style and caliber to the work discussed by Minister and Client (if any) and on Minister’s website and social media sites. Minister agrees that she will work with Client to do her best to accommodate Client’s reasonable suggestions for any of her Wedding Services.

Client agrees that Minister retains complete artistic and editorial freedom to decide whether to provide any aspect of the Wedding Services. Client also agrees that Minister retains complete artistic and editorial freedom over every aspect of Minister’s Wedding Services, including composing homilies, vows, and prayers, officiating the wedding ceremony, praying during the rehearsal or reception, and all other aspects of the Wedding Services. Minister reserves the right to reject any request or suggestion that violates Minister’s religious or artistic standards.

Based on the information Minister presently has, Minister has determined that Client’s requested Wedding Services do not require Minister to participate in any ceremony or event which violates,

contradicts, or is inconsistent with her artistic and religious beliefs. Likewise, Minister has determined that Client's requested Wedding Services either express messages that promote Minister's artistic or religious beliefs, or at least do not violate or contradict or are not inconsistent with those beliefs. Minister reserves the right to terminate this Agreement if Minister subsequently determines, in Minister's sole discretion, that the requested Wedding Services would require her to participate in a ceremony or event or communicate an idea or message which violate, contradict, or are inconsistent with Minister's artistic or religious beliefs. If Minister makes this determination after Client provides false information or conceals material information about Client or the requested Wedding Services, all unpaid charges under this agreement for work already completed shall become immediately due and payable.

No Warranties

Except for the express representations and warranties stated in this Agreement, Minister makes no warranties whatsoever under this Agreement, and explicitly disclaims any other warranties of any kind.

Minister's Exclusive Copyright

Client will become the owner of any physical products delivered to Client but not to the design or underlying works created by Minister. Under the Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. and as the sole creator of these works, Minister retains all ownership, copyright, title, interest, and other intellectual property rights in these works and in any internet posts that Minister creates under this Agreement. Minister's Wedding Services are not works-for-hire under Copyright Law.

Minister reserves the right to document, advertise, display, and describe the Wedding Services rendered to Client. For example, Minister may display a homily drafted for Client on Minister's website and social media sites to advertise Minister's Wedding Services or promote Minister's beliefs about marriage.

Release

Client authorizes and consents to the use of Client's visual image by Minister at Minister's sole discretion. Uses may include but are not limited to still photography, videotape, electronic and printed publications, and publication on websites, including Minister's own website and social media site. Client waives any and all claims for payment associated with these uses.

Client's Limited License

Minister grants Client a limited license to use material created to fulfill the requested Wedding Services for personal and noncommercial uses. For purposes of this Agreement, "use" means to copy, reproduce, modify, edit, synchronize, perform, display, broadcast, publish or otherwise make use of. Client agrees that any public use of homilies or vows drafted by Minister must include a citation to the Minister. Client further agrees that they will under no circumstances alter the text of a homily, vows, or prayers created by Minister for placement in public or on the internet. Minister reserves the right to ask Client to remove any attribution from publicly displayed homilies, vows, or prayers created by the Minister.

Nonpayment, Cancellations, Re-scheduling

Minister reserves the right to void this Agreement for Client's failure to pay fees or expenses. Wedding Services will not be delivered until all fees and expenses are paid. Minister reserves the right to release Client's reserved date for Wedding Services if Client fails to make payments under this Agreement or if Minister is unable to communicate with Client after three (3) attempts.

If Client cancels a wedding ceremony or event, Client agrees that Minister will retain the deposit as the agreed loss suffered by Minister due to the cancellation. If Minister cancels the provision of Wedding Services, all money including any initial payments will be returned to Client.

Client agrees to notify Minister as soon as possible if Client needs to reschedule a Wedding Service for weather or illness or another exceptional circumstance. Minister agrees to reschedule the Wedding Services at no additional charge, but Minister cannot guarantee a particular day or timeline. If Client reschedules a wedding, Client shall reimburse Minister for any costs Minister incurs to reschedule any air travel that is reimbursable to Minister under this Agreement.

Limit of Liability

Minister shall not be liable for any failure to perform Minister’s obligations in this Agreement where such failure results from any cause beyond Minister’s reasonable control, such as (but not limited to) a fire, other causality, or act of God. If Minister fails to perform as required, Minister shall not be liable to the Client or any third party for any damages beyond the reimbursement of fees paid by Client to Minister. Client waives any right to recover any other type of damages, including, but not limited to, any loss of use, revenue, profit or any consequential, incidental, indirect, exemplary, special, pain and suffering, emotional, expectation, or punitive damages, whether arising out of breach of contract, tort (including negligence) or otherwise, regardless of whether such damages were foreseeable and whether or not such party has been advised of the possibility of such damages. In no event will Minister’s liability related to this Agreement, whether arising out of or related to breach of contract, tort (including negligence) or otherwise, exceed the aggregate amounts paid or payable to Minister.

Choice of Venue and Waiver

Client agrees that all legal matters arising from this Agreement will be resolved in the State of Ohio in Cuyahoga County. Minister’s failure to exercise any right provided in this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of any rights in this Agreement.

Complete and Exclusive Statement

Minister and Client agree that this Agreement contains the complete and exclusive statement of the mutual understanding of the parties and supersedes and cancels all earlier written and oral agreements, communications, and other understandings relating to the subject matter of this Agreement, and that any modifications to this Agreement must be in a writing, except as provided otherwise in this Agreement.

If any provision in this Agreement is found to be unenforceable or invalid, that provision shall be limited or eliminated to the minimum extent necessary so that this Agreement shall otherwise remain in full effect. This Agreement is personal to the Client and is therefore not assignable, transferable, or sub-licensable by Client without Minister’s prior written consent.

Minister reserves all rights not expressly granted in this Agreement , including any electronic rights or usage, and including, but not limited to, all rights in any unedited or preliminary Wedding Services.

Client Signature

Date

Minister Signature

Date





Covenant Weddings

October 9, 2019 · 🌐

John and Taylor,

As we get closer to the wedding day I wanted to leave you with a few words of wisdom...

The wedding celebration will be over in a blip, keep your eyes on the life that is ahead of you, celebrate your wedding day through that perspective.

Never go to bed angry. Anger takes root the longer it sits there. Take care of it swiftly.

Treat each other as if you are friends. We are kinder to our friends than our loved ones.

Find a place in your marriage for God. In today's day and age He is the silent partner and glue that will keep us together against the odds.

Remember your vows. Every year on your anniversary, sit down and read them out loud. Commit to them all over again.

Seek to outdo the other in kind gestures, not gifts. The memories you can take with you, the gifts you cannot.

Seek to hear. Anyone can listen.

Make a date night at least twice a month. Keep them!

Remember this is your destiny. Your life together. It doesn't matter what you've gone through or what you have come from. You have the power to succeed. Work at it.

Be mindful of the words you speak in private to your spouse and the words you speak in public about them. Words when they leave your mouth cannot be retracted. Honor and respect goes a long way.

Share your finances. Stay accountable to one another.

Love each other often and well.





Covenant Weddings

December 2, 2019 · 🌐

In exactly two weeks from today, on Sunday, December 15, 2019 I will have the great honor of officiating the wedding of an old school mate, Matt Bohach and his beautiful fiancé Kate Krausel!

As I met with Matt and Kate I sat there so impressed with the maturity of their love. They get each other and they know their love and what they want for their future together. This kind of love is rare these days.

Matt and Kate are deeply rooted in one another and know each other well. I loved witnessing how Matt looked at Kate as he spoke about her, why he loves her and how she is with his daughter Breannah; watching how Kate's eyes lit up as she remembered their first date, the way she felt when she first saw Matt and how she knew Matt was the one.

This is a union I truly believe in and I can't wait to get their nuptials started!





Covenant Weddings

December 14, 2019 · 🌐



It's the final countdown! In less than 24 hours I will have the great honor of joining Kate Krause and Matt Bohach in holy matrimony! 🧑‍🤝‍🧑



Bohach Wedding:

To Kate's family: who gives this woman to this man? Your father or male figure should say "I do" or "her mother and I".

I, Matthew Edward Bohach,
take you Kathryn Maria Krause,
to be my [wife],
to have and to hold
from this day forward;
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
till death us do part,
in the presence of God, and our beloved family and friends I make you this
vow.

I, Kathryn Maria Krause
take you Matthew Edward Bohach, to be my [husband]
to have and to hold
from this day forward;
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
till death us do part,
in the presence of God, and our beloved family and friends I make you this
vow.

Exchange of Rings:

••• Ask Matthew to place the ring on Kate's finger and to repeat the following, ***

Matthew: Kate, I give you this ring as a token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

*** Ask Kate to place the ring on Matthew's finger and to repeat the following, ***

Kate: Matt, I give you this ring as a token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

Family and friends, Matthew and Kate have not entered into this union today alone. Matthew brings with him one beautiful daughter, Breannah. Kate would like to offer a very special vow to her now. Breannah, please come up and join us..

Bre's vow..

Kate:

Bri, thank you for sharing your father Matt with me. For loving me, and for allowing me to reciprocate my love to you. You are and have been an unexpected gift to me, one I am eternally grateful for.

I was not there when you took your first step, but I promise that just as I have been with you every step of these 4 1/2 years, I will continue to walk every step of your future with you in love, and support.

Bri, as I commit my unconditional love to your father, I also pledge my unconditional love and devotion to you.

Kristi:

Family and friends, this concludes the ceremonial part of the wedding of Matthew and Kate Bohach! They now request that you'd join them for a time of celebrating their life, love and future together!

Kristi: By virtue of the authority vested in me, under the laws of the State of OHIO, God and the church, it is with great honor and joy, that I now pronounce you husband and wife!

Matthew, you may now kiss your bride!!!

Ask Matt and Kate to turn around and face the crowd...

Everyone, please give a hand for the new Mr. and Mrs. Bohach!

Pantani Wedding

Who gives this woman to this man?

Family, friends, Please be seated...

On behalf of John and Taylor I'd like to welcome you all this evening!

Before this great event I had the honor of sitting down with John and Taylor to discuss their love and to ask them a few questions.

I asked John what do you love about Taylor he replied "I can always tell her the truth and she will always love and accept me, she has the kindest heart of anyone I know."

I then turned to Taylor and asked her "Taylor what do you love about John and she said "he centers me, he cares for me".

I asked John, John, what is one thing you promise to be and to do for Taylor he said "I promise to always care for her and help her accomplish her dreams"

Taylor's reply was "I promise to always love John in such a way that will help him see his worth. He is worth so much to me"

As a minister I have sat with many couples in my day and this couple is a couple that all ministers hope to have the honor of marrying. I sat humbled in their presence, touched by their admiration and love for one another and I left fully assured of their marital success and future together.

Little did John and Taylor know that every word that was spoken that evening, about each other, is the very reflection of the love of God and the scripture they allowed me to share with you all today.

1 Corinthians tells us..

Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy,
it does not boast,
it is not proud.

It does not dishonor others,
it is not self-seeking,
it is not easily angered,
it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails.

This love that the apostle Paul wrote about so very long ago, in the book of Corinthians has been modeled beautifully in the lives and love of John and Taylor,

it is the anchor that will center them in times of trouble and the sail that will always bring them back to one another.

John and Taylor, you have come here today to affirm your commitment to love, trust, forgive and be each other's place of safety in the sight of God and family and it is my great honor and joy to now lead you in doing this vary thing.

Do you, Johnathan Vincent Pantani take Taylor Elaine Powell to be your wife, to live together in holy matrimony, to love her, to honor her, to comfort her, and to keep her in sickness and in health, forsaking all others, for as long as you both shall live?

John: I do.

Do you, Taylor Elaine Powell, take Johnathan Vincent Pantani to be your husband, to live together in holy matrimony, to love him, to honor him, to comfort him, and to keep him in sickness and in health, forsaking all others, for as long as you both shall live?

Taylor, I do.

Family and friends please rise....

John, Repeat after me..

"I, John, take you, Taylor,
to be my wife,
and these things I promise you:
I will be faithful to you and honest with you;
I will respect, trust, help, and care for you; I will share my life with you;
I will forgive you as God has forgiven us; and my faithfulness will remain
through whatever may come our way
and till death do we two part.

Taylor, repeat after me...

"I, Taylor take you, John
to be my husband,
and these things I promise you:
I will be faithful to you and honest with you;
I will respect, trust, help, and care for you; I will share my life with you;
I will forgive you as God has forgiven us; and my faithfulness will remain
through whatever may come our way and till death do we two part.

Exchange of Rings:

••• Ask John to place the ring on Taylor's finger and to repeat the following, ***

I give you this ring as a token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

*** Ask Taylor to place the ring on John's finger and to repeat the following, ***

I give you this ring as a token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

By virtue of the authority vested in me, under the laws of the State of OHIO, God and the church, it is with great honor and joy, that I now pronounce you husband and wife.

*****Instruct them to hold hands, turn around and face wedding goers*****

You may now kiss your bride!!!

Everyone, please give a hand for the new Mr. and Mrs. Pantani!

Blessing of the Pantani wedding before dinner:

I am incredibly touched and honored to been asked to officiate the Pantani wedding and now bless the food and festivities tonight.

I would first like to express how incredibly beautiful the ceremony was. What a wonderful sense of joy to watch two people so devoted and in love, now become one in the eyes of God and all who care for and love them.

I would ask you now to join me in the bowing of heads as we offer thanksgiving to God, asking him to bless the rest of this night and the food that has been prepared for us..

Father God, we thank you for being here today and for blessing the union of John and Taylor. May your hand always be upon them, leading them closer to you, guiding and protecting them, all of their days.

We ask now, Heavenly Father, that you would bless this food, to our bodies and all the hands that have skillfully prepared it. We ask also, lord, that there would be a spirit of joy and peace on this place as we now joyously, and in unity, celebrate the life, love and future of John & Taylor

We ask this in the name of Jesus! Amen!

Ritchie Wedding

Mark: Who gives this woman to this man?

Crowd: Please be seated...

On behalf of Gage and Sarah I'd like to welcome you all here today! The gift of marriage is miraculous, and this ceremony presents us with a wonderful opportunity, to rejoice in the love shared between Gage and Sarah.

Gage and Sarah, many say that there is no exact recipe for love, but I beg to differ, so before the exchanging of your wedding vows, I'd like to take a moment to read you God's divine recipe for love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 tells us that...

Love is patient; love is kind.

Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

It does not insist on its own way: it is not irritable or resentful;

it does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices in truth.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

And now faith, hope, and love abide,
and the greatest of these is love.

If you Gage, commit within your heart, to love Sarah, in such a way, as described in 1 Corinthians and you Sarah reciprocate this love and commitment to Gage; choosing daily to hide these words within your heart, putting them to practical application ... nothing will divide the beautiful union of your two souls joining together as one today, before loved ones and God.

Lastly, remember that a three-chord strand (You two--plus God) is not easily broken. So in saying that..

Do you, Gage, take Sarah to be your wife, to live together in holy matrimony, to love her, to honor her, to comfort her, and to keep her in sickness and in health, forsaking all others, for as long as you both shall live? *Gage: I do.*

Do you, Sarah, take this man to be your husband, to live together in holy matrimony, to love him, to honor him, to comfort him, and to keep him in sickness and in health, forsaking all others, for as long as you both shall live? *Sarah: I do.*

Gage: Repeat after me: *I, Gage, take you Sarah, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.*

Sarah: Repeat after me: *I, Sarah, take you Gage to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.*

we will now do the Exchanging of Rings

Gage please place the ring on Sarah's finger and repeat the following, "*I give you this ring as a token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.*

Sarah please place the ring on Gage's finger and repeat the following, "*I give you this ring as a token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.*

By virtue of the authority vested in me, under the laws of the State of Florida, and the church, it is with great honor and joy, that I pronounce you now and forever husband and wife.

Gage: You may kiss your beautiful bride.

****Instruct them to hold hands, turn around and face wedding goers****

I now present to you Mr. & Mrs. Gage & Sarah Ritchie! **YAY!**

Blessing of Ritchie wedding before dinner:

I am incredibly touched and honored to been asked to officiate the Ritchie wedding and now bless the food and festivities tonight.

I would first like to express how incredibly beautiful the ceremony was. What a wonderful sense of joy to watch two people so devoted and in love, now become one in the eyes of God and all who care for and love them.

I would ask you now to join me in the bowing of heads as we offer thanksgiving to God, asking him to bless the rest of this night and the food that has been prepared for us..

Father God, we thank you for being here today and for blessing the union of Gage and Sarah. May your hand always be upon them, leading, guiding and protecting them, all of their days.

We ask now, Heavenly Father, that you would bless this food, to our bodies and all the hands that have skillfully prepared it. We ask also, lord, that there would be a spirit of joy and peace on this place as we now joyously, and in unity, celebrate the life, love and future of Gage and Sarah.

We ask this in Jesus name! AMEN

Marriage Certificate

2019ML55066

The State of Ohio,
Cuyahoga County

December 15 20 19

I do hereby certify that on the 15th day of December
20 19, I solemnized the Marriage of KATHRYN MARIA KRAUSE and MATTHEW
EDWARD BOHACH and I do further certify that on the 15th day of
December, 20 19, I made due return to the Court of the
Marriage Certificate.

Kristi M. Stokes

(Printed Name)

To be retained by person solemnizing the
Marriage for his or her record.

Kristi M. Stokes

(Signature)

216 323 5614

(Phone)

City: parma, Ohio

*If both parties reside outside of the State of Ohio, then the marriage
ceremony must take place in Cuyahoga County, OH*

Marriage Certificate

2019ML54148

The State of Ohio,
Cuyahoga County

October 11 2019

I do hereby certify that on the 11th day of October
2019, I solemnized the Marriage of TAYLOR ELAINE POWELL and JOHNATHAN
VINCENT PANTANI and I do further certify that on the 12th day of
October, 2019, I made due return to the Court of the
Marriage Certificate.

Kristi M. Stokes
(Printed Name)

To be **retained** by person solemnizing the
Marriage for his or her record.

Kristi M. Stokes
(Signature)

216 323-5614
(Phone)

City: Parma, Ohio

*If both parties reside outside of the State of Ohio, then the marriage
ceremony must take place in Cuyahoga County, OH*



Covenant Weddings

October 14, 2019 · 🌐

Signed, sealed and delivered! Mr. & Mrs. Pantani will soon be recognized as legally married by the US government. It's very important to hire a reputable, trustworthy and knowledgeable officiant to make sure everything is done right and sent in on time. Otherwise you are susceptible to penalties. I work very hard to make sure each couple not only gets the wedding script, and ceremony of their dreams, but that their minds are put to ease as I handle all of the paperwork and the mailing of such, for them after the wedding. Let's make your wedding dreams come true! DM, email or call me for more information.

The Officiant





Covenant Weddings

December 23, 2019 · 🌐



Signed, sealed and delivered! Mr. & Mrs. Bohach will soon be recognized as legally married by the US government. It's very important to hire a reputable, trustworthy and knowledgeable officiant to make sure everything is done right and sent in on time. Otherwise you are susceptible to penalties. I work very hard to make sure each couple not only gets the wedding script, and ceremony of their dreams, but that their minds are put to ease as I handle all of the paperwork and the mailing of such, for them after the wedding. Let's make your wedding dreams come true! DM, email or call me for more information.

The Officiant





Taylor Elaine Pantani

October 21, 2019 · 🌐

Our entire ceremony script ❤️💍 Thank you for being so amazing The **Officiant**, you explained our love perfectly. And thank you for giving us this script, it means everything.





covenantweddingsllc • Follow

covenantweddingsllc After personally writing John & Taylor's wedding script I had the words printed, presented it to them after their wedding and encouraged them to read these words to each other every year on their anniversary. Taylor did one better! She put the script in a frame and mounted it on the wall, so that they could reflect on their love for each other always. Have I mentioned how much I love this couple??
 #clevelandohioweddings
 #northeastohioweddings
 #ohioweddingvendors
 #weddingday
 #ohioweddingofficiant
 #weddingofficiant #weddingaohio

11 likes
 OCTOBER 21, 2019

Log in to like or comment.

#weddingwire
 37W

columbuscottoncompany What a nice gift! ❤️
 36W Reply
 VIEW REPLIES (1)

11 likes
 OCTOBER 21, 2019



The header features a circular profile picture on the left with the text "covenant WEDDINGS" in a serif font. To the right is a large banner image showing a close-up of hands holding a wedding ring, with the text "covenant WEDDINGS" overlaid in a large, elegant serif font. Below the banner are navigation buttons: "Like", "Follow", "Share", and a menu icon. On the far right are two buttons: "Book Now" (blue) and "Send Message" (grey).



Covenant Weddings

October 13, 2019 · 🌐

It's official! Mr. & Mrs. **Pantani!**

Beautiful couple, beautiful family and friends and an absolutely beautiful wedding and celebration from start to finish.

It was my great honor to officiate John & Taylor's wedding.

-The Officiant

Photo cred📷: @EmilyRichardsphotography





Covenant Weddings is at **Michael Angelo's Winery.**



December 15, 2019 · Richfield, OH · 🌐

Congratulations to the new Mr. & Mrs. Bohach! **Matt & Kate** it was my sincerest honor to officiate your wedding today! I pray you have a long, healthy and happy life together!

~Kristi

The Officiant





Covenant Weddings is at **Columbia Ballroom.**

December 11, 2019 · Columbia Station, OH · 🌐

This moment! It is my favorite part of a wedding ceremony and it is written all over my big happy cheesy smile! Can we talk about the joy on those two beautiful faces!?! 10/11/19

📷: @Emily Richards Photography

Taylor Elaine Pantani

@northeastohioweddings

#clevelandohioweddings #northeastohioweddings

#ohioweddingvendors #weddingday #ohioweddingofficiant

#weddingofficiant #weddingohio #weddingwire

#ohioweddingshows #midwestbride #clevelandohio

#clevelandwedding #clevelandweddings #ohiobride

#clevelandengagement #trendybride #clevelandgram #wedohio

@wedohio #clegram #theknot @weddingwire

@adventerouslovestories





Covenant Weddings

December 29, 2019 · 🌐



December 29, 2018 I had the high honor of officiating Gage and **Sarah Ritchie's** wedding..

It was a beautiful day in Florida, filled with so much love from family and friends, but that love pales in comparison to the authentic and sincere love shared between Gage and Sarah!

One down many, many more to go! I'm rooting you on! Happy 1st Anniversary Gage and Sarah! Thank you for entrusting your special day to me.

-Kristi
The Officiant





Covenant Weddings

August 28, 2019 · 🌐

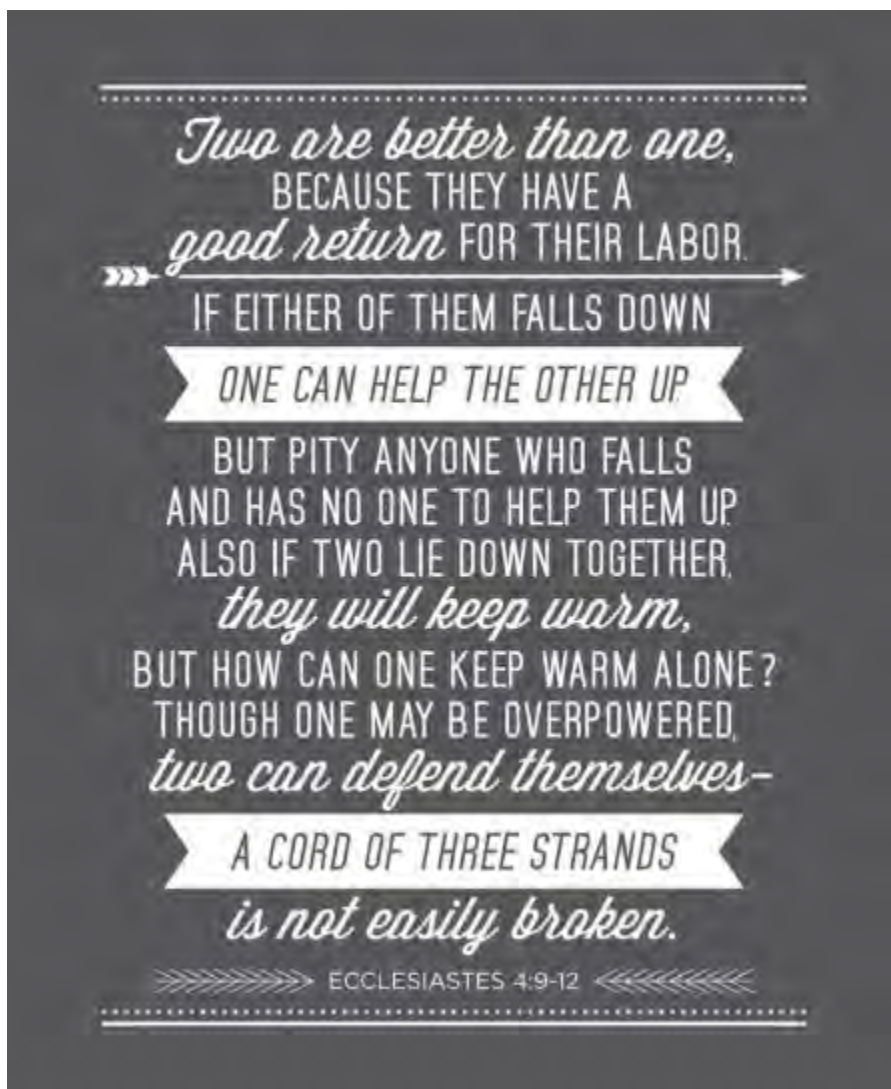
Wedded Wednesday Wisdom:

If you've ever been to a wedding, chances are you've heard this quote from Ecclesiastes "a three cord strand is not easily broken", but have you ever heard it in its entirety?

Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor:
If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls
and has no one to help them up.
Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?
Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Marriage is most prosperous and lasting when we function in unity in everyday life, with each other, and God—then, a three cord strand will not be easily broken.

#theofficiant





Covenant Weddings

September 4, 2019 · 🌐



Wedded Wednesday Wisdom:

Ephesians 4:2: tells us that while in a relationship with someone we should be...

completely humble

gentle

patient

And bear with one another in love

Every relationship will have its share of trials because we have two imperfect people attempting to live in harmony with one another.

The apostle Paul wrote these words while in prison, where there was nothing but conflict surrounding him. This bit of personal wisdom was written to center us and call us back to a place of unity.

Today might be the day to hit the reset button and try a different approach with your relationship. When we are humble, gentle, patient and truly bearing with each other in love (offering grace in our moments of weakness), it's much harder to have conflict and when conflict is absent, unity can flourish.

-The Officiant





Covenant Weddings

September 11, 2019 · 🌐



Wedded Wednesday Wisdom: 👰🤵

Whether we are religious or not, this fundamental truth found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 can be applied to all of our lives. The writer Paul reminds us that

Love is...

- ❤️ patient
- ❤️ kind
- ❤️ does not envy
- ❤️ does not boast
- ❤️ does not dishonor others
- ❤️ is not self-seeking
- ❤️ is not easily angered
- ❤️ keeps no record of wrongs

When these simple truths are applied daily to our marriages and relationships we are much more likely to succeed; even in a world where divorce is at an all time high.

Ask yourself today if you are truly loving the person you committed to love, honor and respect all of your days, at the level written above. If not, where can you make changes, what could you improve on?

Simple adjustments will make all the difference.

~The Officiant





Covenant Weddings

September 18, 2019 · 🌐



Wedded Wednesday Wisdom: 👤 👤

It's easy to get caught up in where you are now as a couple, but sometimes in order to bring things back into perspective you need to remember. Remember how you met or why you fell in love in the first place. Why you chose to commit forever to this specific person. Shift your focus onto the good things that embody the person you are married to. Be present. Choose to ignore the chaos surrounding you and reflect on truth.

"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable if anything is excellent or praiseworthy think about such things."

Philippians 4:8

A different perspective can change EVERYTHING! Including US!

-The Officiant





Covenant Weddings

September 25, 2019 · 🌐



Wedded Wednesday Wisdom: 👤 👤

Paul, the Author of the New Testament book Romans, implores us in chapter 12, verses 9-12 to hold our spouse in high esteem. Let's take a look at this portion of scripture and take a moment to unpack it.

"Love must be sincere": If you're thinking about marriage, getting engaged, sharing forever with another human, do you love this person for all that they are? A sincere love, loves a person for who they are, not who they may become.

"Hate what is evil, cling to what is good": Are you prepared to hate what may be an enemy to your marriage and cling to the things that will be good for it?

"Be devoted to one another in love": The literal definition of devotion is, "love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person, activity, or cause." Are you prepared to spend your days on earth together applying these principles to your relationship?

"Honor one another above yourself": simply put, if you spend your life together collectively living a life of outdoing each other in honor and love, this is a marriage that shall succeed!

"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.": One thing that I consider the main reason for our 17 years of marriage lasting and thriving as long as it has, is our commitment to keeping our relationship centered and grounded in the things of God.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.": There will be days where you will need to be hopeful to keep going, patient when you want to wring the neck of the one you love and your prayer life is what will get you through it all!

Marriage goes on long after the beautiful, joyous wedding is over, are you prepared to practice these principles until "death do us part"?

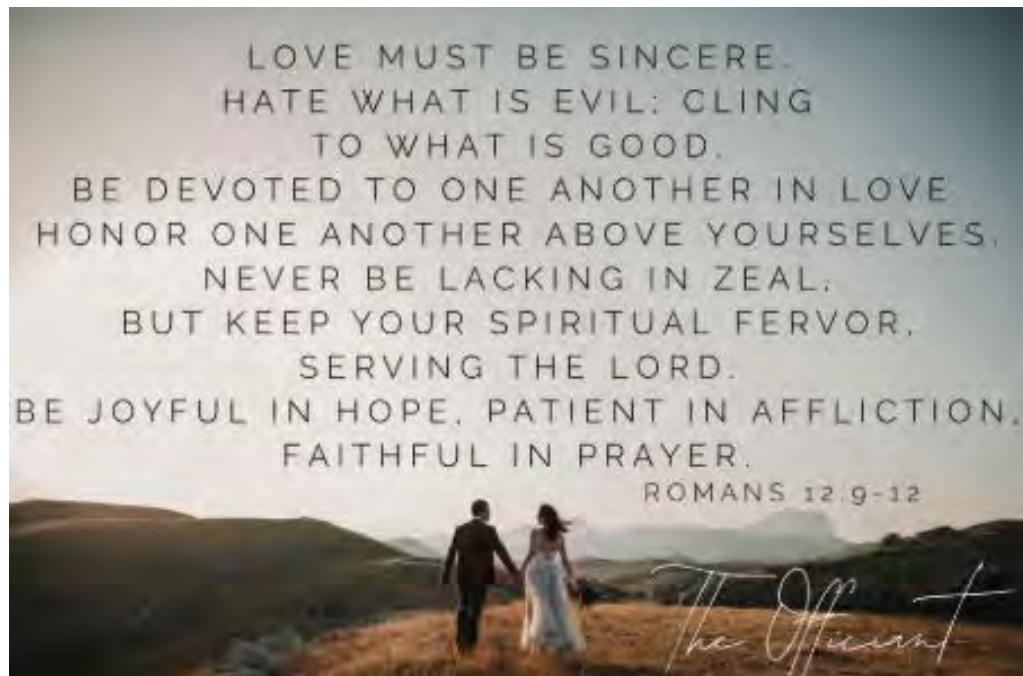
~The Officiant

For bookings or inquiries email: the.officiant@yahoo.com

Add me on Instagram:

TheOhioWeddingOfficiant/

<https://www.instagram.com/the.officiant/>





Covenant Weddings

October 2, 2019 · 🌐



Wedded Wednesday Wisdom 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻

Part 1 🎉

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church

-Ephesians 5:25-29

I've heard this portion of scripture my entire life, but as I was reading it again tonight, a different perspective hit me.

Christ gave himself up for us, the church; he sanctified and cleansed us so that when we are presented before him one day we will be without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that we may be holy and without blemish...

Then the writer says "in the same way husbands should love their wives..."

Pause.. woah..

Husbands, fiancés, boyfriends, how many of you right now, in this moment, if you were to find yourself standing before God would be able to present your wives free of spots, wrinkles, blemishes and Holy (uncorrupted)?

Or would the markings of your words, actions, and lack of dedication to her and only her, be marked clearly upon her?





Covenant Weddings

January 8 · 🌐



Chances are that if you have chosen to get married your mutual goal as a couple is to live happily FOREVER after...

Married couples, what are some practices that you have put into place to ensure you are mutually working towards not only a FOREVER kind of marriage, but also a happy one? Engaged couples, what goals will you implement into your marriage after your wedding celebration? ❤️

➡ Remember you either "plan to succeed, or you plan to fail" and this is especially true with marriage.

The Officiant

@northeastohioweddings

#clevelandohioweddings #northeastohioweddings

#ohioweddingvendors #weddingday #ohioweddingofficiant

#weddingofficiant #weddingohio #weddingwire

#ohioweddingshows #midwestbride #clevelandohio

#clevelandwedding #clevelandweddings #ohiobride

#clevelandengagement #trendybride #clevelandgram #wedohio

@wedohio #clegam #theknot @weddingwire

@adventurouslovestories





Covenant Weddings

May 17 · 🌐



Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens.
A good marriage must be created. In marriage 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 at no time taking the other for granted; the courtship should not end with the honeymoon, it should continue through the years.
It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.
It is standing together facing the world. It is forming a circle of love that gathers the whole family.
It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.
It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.
It is not looking for perfection in each other.
It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humour.
It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.
It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow old.
It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.
It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.
It is not only marrying the right partner; it is being the right partner.
Wilferd Arlan Peterson

Let Covenant Weddings guide you in the pursuit of this kind of love. Premarital counseling now available! Contact us for pricing and more detailed information!

- Couple John & Taylor Pantani
- Photo cred: @EmilyRichardsPhotography
- Venue @TheColumbiaballroom
- Officiant @CovenantWeddings



Photos About Details Pricing Reviews Contact

Rev. James Hary

★★★★★ 5.0 (31) 

Cleveland Akron and surrounding areas

About This Vendor

Experienced. Dependable. Reasonable Fee.

I do weddings by traveling throughout the Cleveland Akron areas by going to reception halls, homes, and parks for anyone anywhere, except same sex. I was ordained in 1989 by a normal traditional Bible based Christian church, not some new age multi-spiritual phoney religion, and NOT "instantly" over the internet like almost all the others listed. Your wedding is an important event, not a joke. Otherwise you would go to Las Vegas and get married by an Elvis impersonator. Besides weddings, I pastored a church for 20 years and have done nursing home and prison ministry. That's why I have photos inside and outside church unlike the internet ordained. Video of wedding and honeymoon with music is courtesy of couple I married in 2011 at church. Generally I do a simple but nice Christian ceremony, but I also have a very tasteful non-religious ceremony that I can do for those who want something civil/secular. I give each couple the care and attention that I would give to my own wedding or that of my children. Read the reviews. My fee (starting at \$100) is based on how far I have to travel and if a rehearsal is needed. Big or small, I do them all! Call 440-829-7425 or e-mail me revhary@yahoo.com and I'll be happy to discuss your wedding.

Details

Ceremony Types

Elopement, Non-Religious Ceremony, Religious Ceremony, Second Wedding, Vow Renewal Ceremony

Religious Affiliations

Christian

Wedding Activities

Wedding, Ceremony

Awards and Affiliations



Last name(s): _____ event date: _____

Contract for Wedding Officiant Services

This contract is dated effective the ____ day of _____, 20_____(Effective Date). (today's date)_____. This agreement made between the officiant, Annie Brust (known hereinafter in this contract as "Officiant") and the Bride_____ and Groom_____ (known hereinafter in this contract as "Couple") is for the purpose of retaining an Officiant to perform a marriage and wedding ceremony on the Couple's behalf.

Bride's number (____) ____ - _____ Email: _____

Groom's number (____) ____ - _____ Email: _____

Reservation

Officiant agrees to provide services to Couple on ____/____/20____ and arrive at the following location for the ceremony (include name of location and complete address):

_____ start ceremony at ____:____ am/pm.

Any change to time, date, or place must be disclosed in advance to the officiant. The Contract may be cancelled or amended due to changes. Rehearsal Officiant shall arrive at (include name of location and complete address):

_____ on ____/____/20____ and start rehearsal at ____:____ am/pm.

If the rehearsal runs over scheduled time, then there will be an additional \$25 fee will accrue for each thirty (30) minute interval past start of contract scheduled time. Any change to time, date, or place must be disclosed in advance and approved by officiant. The Contract may be cancelled or amended due to changes.

- I. The Couple agrees to pay the Officiant the ceremony performance fee of \$ _____ as listed above plus any additional agreed upon services or unusual travel expenses not listed above. To reserve the date, a non-refundable retainer of \$150.00 shall be remitted with this agreement. The remaining balance is due 7 days prior to the ceremony or at the rehearsal, if scheduled.

The Officiant warrants that she is a professional Officiant and recognized as a legally ordained minister wherein fully qualified to officiate at weddings.

Last name(s): _____ event date: _____

The Ceremony

- I.** The Officiant will provide the following services for the fee of \$ _____ under the terms of this agreement. All additional services as listed below are discretionary to the Couple and must be agreed to and paid in full at the rehearsal or if no rehearsal, seven (7) days prior to the service. All fees must be paid before services are performed.
- II.** This agreement is valid for the wedding service as performed at stated place and date stated above. Any change to time, place or date must be provided in advance to (no less than 30 days prior) the Officiant and may be subject to additional fees. The Couple realizes that the Officiant performs other ceremonies for other Couples and that excessive lateness or change in time can create a serious conflict in the Officiant's schedule. If the Couple changes the time or date of the scheduled ceremony without the Officiant's consent, the Officiant reserves the right to cancel the performance of the ceremony and shall in no way be held responsible or liable in any manner for such non-performance.
- III.** If circumstances cause the Couple to postpone the ceremony to another date, the Officiant will make every attempt to accommodate the new date. If the assigned Officiant is available for the new date, then all the Couple's monies paid to date will be transferable if postponement is notified to the Officiant at least thirty (30) days prior to the original date. There may be additional charges if rescheduling results in extra costs. If the assigned Officiant cannot accommodate the new date, the Couple is responsible for finding a new officiant as well as paying any and all fees to the new officiant. The couple will be issued a refund less deposit.
- IV.** The couple has thirty (30) minutes from the above scheduled time to start the ceremony. If by no fault of the Officiant the ceremony starts thirty (30) minutes or more after the ceremony time listed above for any reason including but not limited to weather, delays caused by other vendors, the late arrival of guests or wedding party members, a late fee of \$25 for every thirty (30) minute increment will accrue until the ceremony starts. These fees are due prior to the start of the ceremony or no ceremony will be performed. In the very unlikely event an extremely excessive delay results making it impossible for the Officiant to remain on-site, due to the officiant's schedule, the couple remains responsible for the full Officiant fee.
- V.** The Officiant will work with the Couple by email, telephone or in person for no more than two hours to allow them to prepare or choose their custom service. Officiant has sample services available for the Couple from which to choose or the Couple may chose to modify the samples services, create an original ceremony or use one of their own choosing. The Officiant reserves the right to refuse any service that she is not comfortable performing, at which time a refund may be made to the Couple, based upon parameters of contract.
- VI.** The Officiant gives permission to the Couple to use her likeness in any photographs, videos or other recording media in any manner for any purpose they wish. Likewise, the Couple gives permission to the Officiant to use her (their) likeness in any photograph, video or other form of media for marketing purposes.

Last name(s): _____ event date: _____

Marriage License

- I. The Couple understands that they must obtain/provide a valid marriage license from the appropriate jurisdiction for which the ceremony will be performed and shall provide such valid marriage license to the Officiant to review and execute at the rehearsal or prior to the ceremony. The Officiant cannot perform a legal marriage ceremony without receiving the appropriate valid marriage license prior to the ceremony.

- II. If Couple does not provide valid identification and marriage license on date of ceremony, then only a symbolic ceremony can be performed. This will result in a non-legal status of husband and wife. A \$100 convenience fee will apply if the Officiant must return to perform a civil ceremony at a later date and time, along with travel fees. However, it is in the discretion of the Officiant and a short, pre-written, and civil ceremony will be complete. The Couple also agrees to provide (if applicable) witness(es) to sign their marriage license. If the license is not received by the County Clerk, the Officiant will work cooperatively with the Couple to resolve the issue. Cost for replacement license, if any, will be assumed by the Couple unless failure to record is due to negligence or error on the part of the Officiant, in which case Officiant will assume the cost of the replacement license. If the Couple do not need the Officiant to complete the marriage license information (e.g. for a non-legal commitment ceremony or renewal of vows), no discount will be given.

- III. Upon presenting a valid marriage license to the Officiant, the Couple will sign the official marriage certificate. The responsibility of filing this certificate with the county clerk’s office is solely that of the Officiant. The Officiant is legally obligated to return the completed license to the County Clerk’s office where the License was obtained by the Couple within 30 (thirty) days of the wedding ceremony.

Payment Terms

A NON-REFUNDABLE deposit of \$150.00 must be provided at the time of booking to guarantee the wedding date and time. The remainder of the balance must be paid in full within seven (7) days prior to ceremony scheduled date. Failure to pay a deposit at the time of booking will release the Officiant from providing any services to the Couple under this agreement. Failure to pay in full before agreed date will result in late fees of \$25 a day until wedding date OR ceremony agreement being revoked and the Officiant is no longer liable for further obligation. All fees must be paid prior to ceremony being performed.

Acceptable Forms of Payments: cash, debit card, American Express, MasterCard, Visa or PayPal as a form of payment. No checks are accepted and no exceptions will be made. A receipt will be given to Couple upon payment received.

Total \$ _____ for ceremony service. \$ _____ fee for rehearsal (if applicable) \$ _____ deposit (50% of total service) OR \$ _____ paid in full. \$ _____ Balance. *write zero where not applicable.

Cancellation from Officiant

Last name(s): _____ event date: _____

In the unlikely event that the Officiant is unable to perform the ceremony for unforeseen reason (i.e. hospitalization, auto accident, and/or transportation breakdown/disruption), Officiant will make every attempt to notify the Couple and arrange for another ordained minister licensed and qualified to perform weddings. In such an event that no substitute is available, all monies paid by the Couple to the Officiant will be returned and the Couple hereby agrees that the Officiant will not be held liable for any damages (including punitive) due to the non-performance of the ceremony or function.

Discrepancy

The Couple agrees to acknowledge the services being provided by the Officiant, in a dignified and respectful manner. If there is any discrepancy regarding services of Officiant, the Couple must submit a full written report to Officiant, _____ no later than three (3) days immediately after performed ceremony in order for the parties involved to reach a mutually acceptable resolution. If both parties involved continue to disagree then a mediator will be used. Furthermore, Couple agrees to not post negative reviews on the internet (or elsewhere) or to make negative verbal or written statements until all efforts to resolve said discrepancy have been exhausted. Couple agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Officiant of and from any and all claims, demands, losses, causes of action, damage, lawsuits, judgments, including attorneys' fees and costs, to the extent caused by or arising out of or relating to the work of the Officiant. In no event shall the maximum liability hereunder exceed the amount actually paid to Officiant under this contract.

We hereby have read and acknowledge the stipulations of the contract and adhere to the document as a binding agreement and will follow said conditions/statutes as stated above. Hitherto all parties agree to stated terms and said conditions as specified in this document.

(Signature of Groom)

(Signature of Bride)

Print full name: _____

Print full name: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

**Electronic signature is a binding and legal signature.



Wedding Ceremony Agreement and Contract

Wedding Pastor Ken Ballard, Jr.

*Weddings * Counseling*

Bride's Name *

First Name

Last Name

Bride's Address *

Address 1

Address 2

City

State/Province

Zip/Postal Code

Country

Bride's Phone Number *

(###) ### ####

Bride's E-mail Address *

Groom's Name *

First Name

Last Name

Groom's Address: *

Address 1

Address 2

City

State/Province

Zip/Postal Code

Country

Groom's Phone Number

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(###)

###

####

Groom's E-mail Address

Date of Wedding Ceremony *

There is a nonrefundable deposit of \$100 to reserve the date. The deposit is included in the cost of whatever wedding package you choose.

--	--	--

MM

DD

YYYY

Time of Ceremony

Name of Ceremony Location

Address

Address 1

Address 2

City

State/Province

Zip/Postal Code

Country

Wedding Package *

The Officiant warrants that he is a professional Officiant; recognized as a legally Ordained Minister; fully qualified to officiate at weddings in the State of California.

The Officiant will provide the following services for a fee under the terms of this agreement.

The Officiant offers 4 Wedding Package Options.

Please make checks payable to "Ken Ballard, Jr."

- Ruby Package - \$399 - Includes Planning session, wedding rehearsal, ceremony, and mailing in marriage license.
- Emerald Package - \$499 - Includes all of the above and 2 premarital counseling sessions @ \$50 each = \$100
- Sapphire Package - \$599 - includes all of the above and 2 postmarital sessions @ \$50 each = \$100
- Diamond Package - \$759 - includes Ruby Package and In-Depth Pre-Marital Counseling: 12 sessions @ \$30 each = \$360.

Please read the following terms: *

The Officiant will work with the couple in person, by e-mail, Skype, Face Time, or by telephone to allow them to prepare and choose their custom service. The Officiant has sample services available for the couple or the couple may choose to modify the samples, create a ceremony or use one of their own choosing. The Officiant reserves the right to refuse any service that he is not comfortable performing, at which time a refund may be made to the couple.

The Officiant shall arrive at the wedding location approximately 30 minutes prior to the time of the scheduled service.

- a) Officiant is prepared to dress in the manner that suits the style of your wedding, provided it allows him to present a dignified image in keeping with the character of the rite of matrimony.
- b) Service includes travel within 30 miles (A travel fee of 50 cents/mile will be applied for locations further than 30 miles) of Torrance, CA, a rehearsal the day before the ceremony; the ceremony itself and time needed for post-ceremonial photography.
- c) Attendance at pre and post wedding activities are dependent upon the availability of the Officiant.

In the event that the scheduled Officiant is unable to perform the couple's wedding ceremony due to illness, hospitalization, accidents, transportation breakdown or any other unforeseeable causes, he will make every possible attempt to notify the couple and arrange for another Wedding Pastor from Wedding Pastor Network to substitute. In such an event that no substitute is available, all monies paid by the couple to the Officiant will be returned and the couple hereby agrees that the Officiant will NOT be held liable for any damages (including punitive) due to the non-performance of the ceremony or function.

The Officiant gives permission to the couple to use his likeness in any photographs, videos or other recording media in any manner for any purpose they wish. Likewise the couple gives permission to Ken Ballard to use their likeness in any photographs, videos or other media for marketing purposes.

The couple understands that they must obtain a valid marriage license (which is valid for 90 days) from the appropriate jurisdiction for which the ceremony will be performed and shall provide such valid marriage license to the Officiant BEFORE the ceremony is performed. The Officiant cannot and will not perform a marriage ceremony without receiving the appropriate valid marriage license prior to the ceremony. A valid marriage license is due to be presented no later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the ceremony, or the couple must sign a waiver stating their understanding of the fact that any ceremony performed without the presence of the license will be symbolic only and will not result in the couple's legal status as husband and wife.

Upon presenting a valid marriage license and county licensing fee to the Officiant, the couple will sign the official marriage certificate. The responsibility for filing this certificate with the county clerk's office is solely that of the Officiant. The Officiant is legally obligated to return the completed License to the County Clerk's office where the License was obtained by the couple within 15 days of the wedding ceremony.

This agreement is valid for the wedding service for the place and date stated above. Any change to time, place or date must be agreed to in advance by the Officiant and may be subject to additional fees. The couple realizes that the Officiant performs other ceremonies for other couples and that excessive lateness or change of time can create a serious conflict in the Officiant's schedule. If the couple changes the time or date of the scheduled ceremony without the Officiant's consent, the Officiant reserves the right to cancel the performance of the ceremony, and shall in no way be held responsible or liable in any manner for such non-performance.

The couple agrees to pay the Officiant the ceremony performance fee of \$399, \$499, \$599, or \$759 - (depending on the wedding package selected) plus any additional agreed upon services or unusual travel expenses not listed above. To reserve the date, a non-refundable deposit (booking fee) of \$100 shall be remitted with this signed agreement. The remaining balance is due at the rehearsal, or if there is no rehearsal, prior to ceremony. The bride and groom can either pay by cash, personal check, or credit card through PayPal.

The couple accepts responsibility for purchasing items needed to perform the ceremony (unity candles, sand, roses, etc.) unless previously stated.

This agreement and any attachments constitute the entire agreement between the parties and may not be modified except in writing signed by both parties. No other representation or promises have been made except those that are set out in this agreement. If any part of this agreement is adjudged to be invalid, illegal, unenforceable, the remaining parts shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect. IN WITNESS HERE, the couple have executed this Wedding Ceremony Agreement and Contract as of the date stated above.

I have read and agree with the terms written above.

Date of Contract: *

MM DD YYYY

Officiant's Contact Information

Ken Ballard, Jr.
3642 169th St.
Torrance, CA 90504

Email: weddingpastorken@gmail.com
Phone: (424) 738-8158
Website: www.weddingpastorken.com

Please print off or screenshot a copy of the contract for yourself before hitting submit. *

Done

SUBMIT

Click this [link](#) to make your non-refundable \$100 deposit to reserve your date.



BOOK ME

 As Seen on The Knot

HOME ABOUT TESTIMONIALS SERVICES BLOG

WEDDINGS WITH SERENITY

Officiant Contract

—

Wedding Ceremony Agreement and Confirmation This agreement, made this _____ day of _____, 20____ by and between **Weddings with Serenity** hereinafter referred to as: The Officiant and _____ and _____ hereinafter referred to as: **The Couple**.

WITNESSETH: In consideration of the mutual covenants and agreement herein contained, The Officiant and The Couple hereby agree to the following terms and conditions:

THE OFFICIANT’S RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. The Officiant shall perform a marriage ceremony for **The Couple** on the _____ day of _____, 201____ at the approximate time of: _____ a.m./p.m. at/on the facility of _____ located at: _____.
2. The Officiant warrants that she is a professional officiant, recognized as a legally ordained minister, fully qualified to officiate wedding ceremonies and solemnize the rites of all marriages in Florida and most states in the U.S. As Florida Notary Public, I may officiate civil ceremonies in FL.
3. The Officiant will provide the following services under the terms of this agreement:
 1. A preliminary confirmation reserving the date, time and location of the wedding ceremony as indicated above will be sent via email to **The Couple**.



2. Creation of the ceremony.
3. Two weeks prior to j. b of The Couple will receive a final check-in call to reconfirm all aspects of the ceremony and list all items which will be needed on the day of the wedding.
4. The Officiant shall complete and execute the marriage license and file (mail) said license in accordance with the instructions set forth by the jurisdiction from where the license was obtained.

THE COUPLE'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. **The Couple** understands that they must obtain a Marriage License at the appropriate jurisdiction for which the ceremony will be performed and shall provide said Marriage License to The Officiant to review and execute on the day of the ceremony. **The Couple has been informed and fully understands that if a valid marriage license is not presented with government issued identification to the Officiant BEFORE the ceremony is performed, the Officiant cannot perform a legally valid marriage ceremony.**
2. **The Couple** shall not change the date, time or location of the wedding as listed in paragraph 1 of this agreement without first contacting and advising The Officiant of said change so as to determine if **The Officiant** is still available to perform the ceremony. **The Couple** also understands and recognizes that The Officiant performs other wedding ceremonies for other couples and such change of date, time, or location without first notifying **The Officiant**, or any excessive lateness (30 minutes & over) of the originally scheduled wedding ceremony time may prevent The Officiant from performing the ceremony. If **The Couple** does change the date, time, or location of the scheduled wedding ceremony, and **The Officiant** is unavailable to perform the ceremony, then **The Officiant** reserves the right to cancel the performance of their ceremony, and shall in no way be held responsible or liable in any manner whatsoever for non-performance.
3. If **The Officiant** can still perform the wedding ceremony on the new date, time, and location, then this agreement shall be canceled and a new agreement entered into reflecting the new date, time and location.
4. **The Couple** agrees to pay **The Officiant** a ceremony performance fee of \$ _____ plus any mutually agreed upon additional services and/or travel expenses outside the 5 mile radius of 502 N Highlands Dr, Hollywood, FL 33021. To reserve the above date, a **NON-REFUNDABLE** deposit in the amount of \$50.00 shall be remitted with this agreement (made payable by check, cashier's check, [by using Zelle](#) or by credit card through [PayPal](#) to "**Ann Kurtzman**"). The balance of the ceremony fee remaining, in the amount of \$_____.00, must be paid in the form of cash, cashier's check or money order, or [PayPal](#), which is due two weeks prior to the ceremony date. If payment is not received two weeks before the wedding date, then time and date reservations are canceled and may be booked by other parties, without exception and without notice. If **The Couple** needs to make partial payments, they may do so as long as payment in full is received two weeks prior to the ceremony date. Reservations made with less than 30 days remaining until the wedding require a 100% non-refundable payment. Should reservations be canceled with 21 days or less remaining before reserved date, payment in full is required to avoid legal action.
 1. A deposit of 50.00 must be paid in advance and is required, along with a signed contract, to book a date and time for a wedding. Deposits are not refundable should the wedding be canceled for any reason. This deposit will be applied to rescheduled ceremonies

2. Fees are based upon amount of service time provided. If services go beyond the outlined details (i.e. extensive electronic communications, or delays with the start of the ceremony) additional fees will be assessed accordingly at the rate of \$50.00 per half hour and are due paid prior to the signing of the marriage license
- 3 You will receive a notice (via email or mail) acknowledging receipt of the deposit and confirming your booking date and time. A PDF copy of this document in its entirety will be returned to you by email. Hard copy of this document in its entirety will be returned to you within 30 business days **if you so request.**
5. **REFUSAL: The Officiant** reserves the right to refuse any request for a reservation and further reserves the right to refuse to perform any service that he/she is not comfortable with, even though a reservation was accepted. If a wedding service that has been reserved is not performed, then a refund shall be due in the same form it was received
- 6 **LATE FEES:** The Officiant may waive the late fee charge, at his/her discretion No refund will be given if **The Officiant** is not able to perform the ceremony because of any delays beyond the stipulated time period. If for ANY reason the ceremony starts 30 minutes or more after it is scheduled, **The Officiant** may, at their option, perform a very short civil ceremony in place of the agreed upon ceremony Neither shall **Weddings with Serenity** or Ann Kurtzman be held liable for any costs of the ceremony or reception, or damages of any kind. **The Officiant** will charge an additional \$50.00 **per half hour** if required to wait more than 29 minutes past the scheduled starting time. Said fee is due paid prior to the signing of the marriage license. The ability of **The Officiant** to wait more than 30 minutes will be solely at her discretion If **The Couple** wishes to void this clause and reserve **The Officiant's** services for the entire day, there will be an additional \$250.00 charge, and this must be agreed upon according to the availability of **The Officiant** at the time of contract signing.
7. **TRAVEL AND EXPENSES:** Any travel of over 5 miles (one way) from The Officiant's home address shall be charged at \$1 00 per mile (round trip) Mileage will be determined using Google Maps All toll expenses are also the responsibility of **The Couple**. Additional travel expenses may include a one- or two-night hotel stay, if the rehearsal and/or wedding are more than 90 miles away for the night before the wedding. These details MUST be discussed prior to signing the contract. Hotel accommodations are required for any of the following conditions a) If the wedding is before 11:00 a.m. and more than 90 miles away (for the night before the wedding); b) If the wedding is after 6:30 p.m. and more than 90 miles away (for the night of the wedding); c) If the wedding is more than 90 miles away and service is requested for rehearsal the night before the wedding. All travel expenses should be included in the total ceremony cost and need to be paid two weeks prior to the ceremony. All parking fees and entrance fees to your venue are to be paid by **The Couple** and shall be included in the total ceremony cost and shall be paid two weeks prior to the ceremony.
8. **ADD ON CEREMONY ITEMS: The Couple** accepts responsibility for purchasing items needed to perform any of the smaller ceremonies that they may wish to include in their ceremony (i.e. Unity or memory candles, wine, roses, sand, breakable glass). These items may be shipped to the officiant as a convenience to out of town couples. If **The Couple** requests any special provisions from **The Officiant**, these details should be submitted in writing no later than three weeks prior to the ceremony date

AL PROVISIONS:



305.883.1944

1. **The Officiant** shall arrive at the wedding location 20 minutes prior to the time of the wedding ceremony, and 20 minutes before rehearsals. **The Couple** fully understands and agrees that **The Officiant** shall not be responsible or held liable in the event **The Officiant** is prohibited from performing **The Couple's** wedding ceremony due to illness, hospitalization, auto accident, transportation breakdown/disruption, traffic difficulties, acts of God such as hurricanes or inclement weather or other unforeseen incapacitation or other cause of non-arrival on the day of the ceremony. **The Officiant** will make every attempt to notify **The Couple** and to provide a substitute Officiant who can perform a wedding ceremony if time and resources permit. In any event, **The Officiant**, their agents and assigns shall NOT be held liable for any compensation or any damages (including punitive) due to non-performance of any ceremony/function resulting from such incapacitations, non-arrival, errors and/or omissions of any type.
2. **The Couple** gives permission and shall allow **The Officiant** to post a photograph(s) of them with **The Officiant** on **The Officiant's** website for viewing by the internet community. **The Couple** acknowledges that this is for promotional purposes only and they do not expect to receive any compensation of any kind. There shall be no expiration for this permission.
3. **The Officiant** gives permission and shall allow **The Couple** to use any photographs, videos, or other recording media in which **The Officiant** is in, or part of, in any manner or for any purpose they wish.
4. This agreement and attachments constitute the entire agreement between the parties and may not be modified except in writing signed by both parties or by the acknowledgment of email received by both parties. No other representations or promises have been made except those that are set out in this agreement.

If any part of this agreement is adjudged invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, the remaining parts shall not be affected and remain in full force and effect.

Total Fee: \$ _____ = Ceremony Fee \$ _____ + Applicable Add-on Fees \$ _____

Payment Terms:

A deposit of \$50.00 is due at contract signing to reserve your date and is **not** refundable. The balance of total fee (\$ _____) is due two weeks **before** the ceremony by: made payable by check, cashier's check, [by using Zelle](#) or by credit card through [PayPal](#) to "**Ann Kurtzman**".

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto agree to the terms and conditions as described above and have caused this contract to be signed on the dates indicated below, but effective as of the effective date.

Ann E. Kurtzman (Officiant) (Date)

(Client Print Name) (Date)



(Client Print Name)

(Date)

305 903-1944

(Client Signature and Phone Number)

(Client Signature and Phone Number)

(Client Email Address)

(Client Mailing Address)

Print out form, sign and send with deposit. Or click the Pay Pal Button Below
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Your ceremony date? *

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הצנע לכת



A CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
for Members of the Rabbinical Assembly

הצנע לכת: A CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

for Members of the Rabbinical Assembly

I. INTRODUCTION

הגיד לך אדם מה טוב ומה ה' דורש ממך כי אם עשות משפט ואהבת חסד והצנע לכת עם אלהיך (מיכה ו:ח)

A life committed to the rabbinate is a life committed to walking with humility before God. We recognize that ordination carries with it a commitment to live and model a life of מצוות and religious observance governed by הלכה. Whether we serve in the pulpit, educational settings, chaplaincy, the campus, communal organizations, or the military, there is no area of rabbinic service which is exempt from our dedication to להברו בין אדם and בין אדם למקום. Just as we pray every day in the vcr vevt: והאר עינינו בתורתך ודבק לבנו במצוותיך ויחד לבנו לאהבה וליראה אדם למקום, we dedicate ourselves to live out these words in every area of life and work.

Because our lives are bound up in this commitment to תורה and קדושה, what follows is a code of professional and ethical conduct which applies to every member of The Rabbinical Assembly in whatever rabbinic position served.

This code clarifies expected responsibilities in a number of areas related to Assembly membership, including relationships among colleagues, personal behavior, and policies and standards of the Assembly. In addition, there is a description of the ועד הכבוד and its procedures. We believe this code will be helpful to all colleagues and provide guidance in certain complex areas of concern.

II. MEMBERSHIP IN THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY

Membership in the Rabbinical Assembly is available to rabbis ordained from seminaries of the Conservative/Masorti Movement. These are the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, the Rabbinical School of the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem, the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires, and the Jewish Theological Seminary in Budapest. Membership is contingent upon receiving ordination, filing a signed membership application and being elected to membership by vote at the Rabbinical Assembly's annual meeting. Any ordainee who chooses not to become a member of the Rabbinical Assembly within one year of ordination must apply for membership through the Membership Committee.

Rabbis ordained at other recognized institutions of Jewish learning who wish to become members of the Rabbinical Assembly must go through an application process administered through the Membership Committee.

Membership may be denied or revoked if at any time there have been violations of a moral, ethical or religious nature, or there has been a criminal conviction by any court of law, or there has been disciplinary action taken by a professional body.

This code was approved by the Executive Council on October 21, 2004, 6 מרחשוון 5765

Revised October 18, 2018, ט' מרחשוון תשע"ט.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Rabbinical Assembly are required to fulfill the responsibilities of membership and fulfill the halakhic and administrative policies established by the Assembly. The signing of the membership application serves as an agreement to abide by these policies and to abide by the Assembly's code of professional conduct.

Thus, while the rights and status of מרא דאתרא are strongly upheld by the Rabbinical Assembly, granting to each rabbi the responsibility to determine halakhic parameters for his or her congregation, institution or organization, it is expected that the rulings of the Rabbinical Assembly and of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards will serve as halakhic guide for members of the Assembly and their communities.

"Standards of Religious Practice" are binding upon all members of the Rabbinical Assembly. Such standards are established through the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards with approval of the Assembly at an annual meeting. Current Standards of Religious Practice include:

- a) Clergy of the Conservative/Masorti Movement may grant formal Jewish status only to a person who is either born to a Jewish woman or converted with *tevilah* and (if male) *brit milah* as approved by a Beit Din, it being understood that any member of the Rabbinical Assembly shall continue to possess the right to petition the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards for an opinion on any case of extraordinary circumstances.
- b) Clergy of the Conservative/Masorti Movement may officiate in any aspect of any manner of wedding ceremony for a person previously married to a Jew only if the previous marriage was dissolved by the death of the spouse or by a divorce in both civil law and in Jewish law, the latter by a *טל*, by another form of dissolution approved by the CJLS, or by the action of the Joint Bet Din.
- c) Clergy of the Conservative/Masorti movement may officiate at weddings only if both parties are Jewish. Officiation means signing documents or verbal participation of any kind. Attendance as a guest at a wedding where only one party is Jewish is not included in this Standard of Religious Practice.

Violations of Standards of Religious Practice usually result in expulsion from the Rabbinical Assembly.

Administrative policies and halakhic practice parameters are promulgated by the Executive Council and are binding upon the membership of the Rabbinical Assembly. These currently include:

- (1) Keeping the Rabbinical Assembly informed of current address and place of employment, if any. The Rabbinical Assembly makes every effort to maintain contact with members of the Assembly. Should such contact not be possible due to a member's failure to inform the Assembly of a current address, after one year, membership in the Assembly will end and reinstatement may only occur by application through the Membership Committee.
- (2) The filing of dues forms and timely payment of dues. Failure to file annual dues forms and complete payment of dues may result in suspension or expulsion from membership. It is also expected that all other financial obligations such as payments related to convention or attendance at seminars will also be paid when due.

- (3) Abiding by the policies established by committees of the Rabbinical Assembly as approved by the Executive Council, such as those of the Placement Commission, Membership Committee, ועד הכבוד, etc.
- (4) Abiding by *regional practices* in order to strengthen rabbinic cooperation and promote communal cohesiveness. Regional policies must conform to those of the Rabbinical Assembly and are subject to review and approval by the Executive Council. Rabbis resident in or working temporarily in a region must abide by regional policies.
- (5) Rabbinical Assembly members may not privately ordain individuals. The Rabbinical Assembly firmly opposes private ordination as undermining the high standards of rabbinic education and training, and as demeaning the trust and respect of the rabbinic profession.
- (6) If a rabbi is interested in establishing a new congregation for whatever reason, he/she must seek and receive approval of the Placement Commission.
- (7) Rabbinical Assembly members may not officiate at any civil marriage ceremonies. Colleagues may only function in rabbinic roles and may not serve in civil capacities for marriages or other ceremonies and rites. Rabbis may not officiate when a required civil marriage license has not been previously obtained.
- (8) It is Executive Council policy that גטין should be arranged through certified מסדרי גטין who participate in the גט Registration Project of the Joint Bet Din.

Failure to abide by Rabbinical Assembly policies and/or this Code of Professional Conduct may result in disciplinary action. Administrative policy violations such as a placement violation or a failure to remit dues as required will be reviewed by the appropriate committee of the RA (e.g., Placement Commission, Administrative Committee) and disciplinary action, if any recommended. Violations of an ethical, moral or religious nature will be referred to the ועד הכבוד. If necessary, a recommendation for disciplinary action will be reported to the Administrative Committee, and then voted upon by the Executive Council to become effective.

IV. RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN RABBIS

1. Within the Same Congregation

(A) Multiple Rabbis

The complexity and diversity of congregational life and activity often require the engagement of two or more rabbis to better serve congregational needs. The Rabbinical Assembly encourages this practice. It brings great benefit to congregational communities and enables rabbis to be more effective in their work.

- (1) In those congregations served by more than one rabbi, it is expected that the senior rabbi will share rabbinic duties with assistants/associates in order to enhance opportunities for rabbinic growth and development and integration into congregational life and affairs, unless the assistant/associate, by agreement, title, and/or position description, will not generally assume similar rabbinic duties (e.g., serves as educational director or executive director).
- (2) It is expected that relationships among rabbis in the same congregation will reflect the highest degree of collegiality, respect and cooperation. It is expected that rabbis will be supportive of each other and



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ANNULMENT

An annulment is a declaration by a Church tribunal (a Catholic church court) that a marriage thought to be valid according to Church law actually fell short of at least one of the essential elements required for a binding union.

The annulment process is frequently misunderstood.

These [Annulment FAQs](#) explain who needs an annulment, the process, and its effects.

What is an annulment?

"Annulment" is an unfortunate word that is sometimes used to refer to a Catholic "declaration of nullity." Actually, nothing is made null through the process. Rather, a Church tribunal (a Catholic Church court) declares that a marriage thought to be valid according to Church law actually fell short of at least one of the essential elements required for a binding union.

For a Catholic marriage to be valid, it is required that: (1) the spouses are free to marry; (2) they are capable of giving their consent to marry; (3) they freely exchange their consent; (4) in consenting to marry, they have the intention to marry for life, to be faithful to one another and be open to children; (5) they intend the good of each other; and (6) their consent is given in the presence of two witnesses and before a properly authorized Church minister. Exceptions to the last requirement must be approved by Church authority.

Why does the Church require a divorced Catholic to obtain a declaration of nullity before marrying in the Church?

In fidelity to Jesus' teaching, the Church believes that marriage is a lifelong bond (see Matt 19:1-10); therefore, unless one's spouse has died, the Church requires the divorced Catholic to obtain a declaration of nullity before marrying someone else. The tribunal process seeks to determine if something essential was missing at the moment of consent, that is, the time of the wedding. If so, the Church can declare that a valid marriage was never actually brought about on the wedding day.

What does the tribunal process involve?

Several steps are involved. The person who is asking for the declaration of nullity – the petitioner – submits written testimony about the marriage and a list of persons who are familiar with the marriage. These people must be willing to answer questions about the spouses and the marriage. If the other spouse did not co-sign the petition, the tribunal will contact that spouse – the respondent – who has a right to be involved. In some cases the respondent does not wish to become involved; the case can still move forward.

Based upon the information that was submitted, a tribunal official will determine the process that is to be followed. Regardless of the selected process, both the petitioner and the respondent will be able to read the testimony submitted, except that protected by civil law (for example, counseling records). Each party may also appoint a Church advocate to represent him or her before the tribunal. A representative for the Church, called the defender of the bond, will argue for the validity of the marriage.

If the tribunal decides in favor of the nullity of the marriage, the parties are then free to marry in the Catholic Church, unless an appeal of the decision is lodged or the decision includes a prohibition against one or both of the parties marrying until certain underlying issues have been resolved (see Code of Canon Law, 1682.1).

How long does the process take?

The length will depend upon the type of process that is followed, e.g., the ordinary judicial process, the process before the bishop, a documentary process, or a process before a Roman court. Your diocesan tribunal will be able to give you a more exact estimate based upon your case.

How can a couple married for many years present a case?

The tribunal process examines the events leading up to, and at the time of, the wedding ceremony, in an effort to determine whether what was required for a valid marriage was ever brought about. The length of common life is not proof of validity but a long marriage does provide evidence that a couple had some capacity for a life-long commitment. It does not prove or disprove the existence of a valid marriage bond.

If a marriage is declared null, does it mean that the marriage never existed?

No. It means that a marriage that was thought to be valid civilly and canonically was in fact not valid according to Church law. A declaration of nullity does not deny that a relationship existed. It simply states that the relationship was missing something that the Church requires for a valid marriage.

If a declaration of nullity is granted, are the children considered illegitimate?

No. A declaration of nullity has no effect on the legitimacy of children who were born of the union following the wedding day, since the child's mother and father were presumed to be married at the time that the child was born. Parental obligations remain after a marriage may be declared null.

I do not plan to re-marry. Why should I present a marriage case?

Some people find that simply writing out their testimony helps them to understand what went wrong and why. They gain insights into themselves. Others say that the process allowed them to tell their whole story for the first time to someone who was willing to listen. A person cannot know today if they might want to marry in the future when crucial witnesses may be deceased or their own memories may have dimmed.

Why does the Catholic Church require an intended spouse, who is divorced but not Catholic, to obtain a declaration of nullity before marrying in the Catholic Church?

The Catholic Church respects the marriages of non-Catholics and presumes that they are valid. Thus, for example, it considers the marriages of two Protestant, Jewish, or even nonbelieving persons to be binding for life. Marriages between baptized persons, moreover, are considered to be sacramental. The Church requires a declaration of nullity in order to establish that an essential element was missing in that previous union that prevented it from being a valid marriage, and thus the intended spouse is free to marry.

This is often a difficult and emotional issue. If the intended spouse comes from a faith tradition that accepts divorce and remarriage, it may be hard to understand why he/she must go through the Catholic tribunal process. Couples in this situation may find it helpful to talk with a priest or deacon. To go through the process can be a sign of great love of the non-Catholic for the intended spouse.

My fiancé/e and I want to marry in the Catholic Church. He/she has been married before and has applied for a declaration of nullity. When can we set a date for our wedding?

You should not set a date until the tribunal's decision has been finalized. First, the petition may not be granted. Second, even if the petition is eventually granted, there may be unexpected delays in the process, e.g., if your fiancé/e's spouse wishes to appeal the tribunal's decision.

How much does it cost?

Pope Francis has asked dioceses whenever possible to provide their tribunal services free of charge. Depending upon how much your diocese is able to subsidize the work of its tribunal, you may be asked to pay a nominal fee. You may also be asked to make a donation following the completion of your case. Fees are typically payable over time, and may be reduced or even waived in cases of financial difficulty. Other expenses may be incurred when consultation with medical, psychological, or other experts is needed, or if you obtain the services of a private canon lawyer to represent you.

How do I start the process?

Your parish can provide the information and forms that you need to get started.

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Tim Greathouse - Wedding Officiant

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FAQs

Where do you perform your ceremonies?

I'm not tied to any particular venue – I can perform ceremonies anywhere. I do have some favorite venues that I can suggest if you've not chosen a location yet.

How much do you charge?

My fee varies based upon the complexity of the ceremony and the distance of the ceremony venue from my location, which is Akron, Ohio. My rates are competitive, however, I will readily admit that I'm not the least expensive officiant around. Cheap goods and services are cheap for a reason – because they suck. Be wary of anyone who will perform your ceremony for an astoundingly low price, as one gets what one pays for.

Do you offer any discounts?

I offer discounts for ceremonies that meet any of the following criteria:

Take place in the morning (ending before noon) or mid-to-late-evening (beginning no earlier than 7:30 p.m. and ending no later than 10 p.m.)

Take place on a Friday or Sunday, with an additional discount applying for Monday through Thursday ceremonies

Take place in November/December, with an additional discount applying for those in January/February

We have X number of people attending our wedding. How much do you charge for a wedding that large?

I don't charge more if you have more people attending your wedding ceremony. Some officiants do, and I think it's extraordinarily lame. Whether it's just two people (namely, the couple) or 2,000 people, my fee is the same. I'm not Wayne Newton. Much. (Kidding. I'm not Wayne Newton *at all*, just to reassure you.)

What makes your wedding ceremonies different?

A church wedding is all wrong for couples that aren't religious. I provide a secular or spiritual alternative to church weddings. A justice of the peace offers the same alternative, but the resulting ceremony is dry, short and not custom-written based on the couple's tastes and beliefs.

Do you do "traditional" ceremonies using "traditional" wedding language?

That's entirely up to you. If you want to use traditional wedding language ("I, Brad, take you, Suzy, to be my lawfully wedded wife ...") I'm happy to oblige. Take a look at some of the [ceremonies I've performed](#) for some examples of nontraditional language. You can also do both – for example, nontraditional vows but a traditional exchange of rings. I'll say whatever makes the ceremony meaningful for you both!

We're having our wedding in a church – can you still perform the ceremony?

Churches almost always require that, at very least, an ordained member of their religious order perform a wedding ceremony that taking place in their

chapel. That being said, I'm happy to perform a wedding ceremony anywhere, church or otherwise, if it can be arranged.

We wrote our own ceremony – will you simply recite it?

No. The words I speak during a wedding ceremony directly reflect on me personally and professionally. As such, I don't simply "read" ceremonies prepared by others.

Can we write our own vows?

Absolutely! I encourage you to write and recite your own wedding vows if you feel comfortable doing so.

Can we read and edit the ceremony you've written for us?

No. I ask that couples trust that I'll compose the perfect ceremony for them, and because of this, I don't allow them to read it ahead of time. The words will have much more impact if you hear them for the first time on your actual wedding day.

Our wedding is going to have a unique theme – can you write it based on that theme?

Yes, but depending on the complexity of the theme, there may be an additional fee. For instance, if you're looking for simple references to an ethnic-themed wedding, no additional fee will be required. On the other hand, if you want a traditional Klingon wedding, that's going to require some extra research, extra writing and extra money. Plus, I'll have to learn Klingon.

Can you dress a certain way for our ceremony?

I'll wear whatever you want for your ceremony – within reason. Most couples want someone in a black suit and white collared shirt, with or without a tie. If you're looking for something a little more exotic (like a cassock and cincture, or a costume for a themed wedding), extra charges will apply.

How long do your ceremonies last?

Depending on what you request to be included in the ceremony, 15-20 minutes. This doesn't include processionals or any other elements. While this might not sound like a long time, trust me – it's just right. It's a densely packed ceremony – every word is robust with meaning. Most couples (as well as most ceremony attendees) would prefer a short, purposeful ceremony – without the rambling commentary some officiants insist on engaging in – and one focused on the couple's love and not a litany of religious instructions for the married life.

Do you bring your own sound equipment?

No, it will be your responsibility to provide sound equipment if you want me to use a microphone. Please be aware – I can ONLY use a wireless, lapel microphone. Your DJ or sound person must be made aware of this in advance. I CANNOT use a traditional, handheld microphone, even on a microphone stand. In most cases, I can project quite clearly without a microphone. In all but the most necessary cases, I recommend against using one. They detract greatly from the atmosphere of the ceremony.

Do we have to attend pre-marriage counseling with you before the ceremony?

Absolutely not. I find pre-marriage counseling insulting, invasive and distasteful. I'm not a therapist, and can offer you no advice for a successful marriage other than to always love and respect each other. Similarly, I do not "screen" couples from some imaginary moral high ground to determine if they are "ready" to get married. You're both adults and I trust you've made a reasonable, informed decision to marry each other. This paragraph constitutes the whole of my pre-marriage counseling.

May we contact other couples you've performed ceremonies for?

You may! The [testimonials page](#) has comments from couples for whom I've performed ceremonies, as well as their friends and loved ones. Contact me at 330-703-2430, and let me know who you'd like me to put you in touch with. I'll also put you in touch with couples I've worked with who have *not* left testimonials, such is my confidence that their feedback will reflect the high caliber of the services I perform.

What would happen if you were unavailable to perform a scheduled ceremony?

In the **extremely** unlikely event of a catastrophic emergency, I have an associate officiant who will preside over the scheduled ceremony at a

moment's notice.

Will you shave your beard for our ceremony?

No. If you require that much control over your wedding day, I'm probably not the right person to perform your ceremony.

Do you perform gay commitment ceremonies?

I very much look forward for the day when all state governments legally recognize a gay couple's right to marry. Until then, however, I will cheerfully perform non-legally binding wedding ceremonies (sometimes referred to as commitment ceremonies) for gay couples. You can read my manifesto on gay marriage (and the senseless opposition to it) [here](#).

We wish to renew our vows – can you officiate the ceremony?

I will happily celebrate a vow-renewal ceremony. The same process and fee structure is utilized as for a wedding ceremony.

Is it standard practice to “tip” the officiant? Do you accept gratuity?

Whether it's standard practice or not is a matter of some debate. Nonetheless, I expect nothing more than the agreed-upon fee. That being said, I do cheerfully accept gratuity.

Should I invite you to our rehearsal dinner or reception?

Weddings are intimate affairs for the couple's friends and family. I have no problem simply performing my duties at the rehearsal and ceremony and excusing myself. However, I'm honored by any invitation to break bread with and enjoy the company of your loved ones. However, I'm often forced to decline those kind offers, usually because of other ceremonies or rehearsals that I must attend.

You won't be offended if we don't tip you or invite you to our rehearsal dinner or reception?

Weddings are expensive enough as is. I don't begrudge anyone who wishes to spare the expense of having me at the rehearsal dinner or reception, or who wishes to forgo gratuity. I'm just happy to be a part of your wedding day!

How do we get our marriage license? Do you furnish it?

It is the responsibility of the local court authority to provide a couple with a marriage license. Fees and procedures vary from county to county. Check with your county courthouse for information and bring the entire marriage license packet with you to the ceremony.

Should we get you a boutonnière?

You don't have to, but I *do* like pretty flowers and looking spiffy. Just sayin'.

I spoke to someone who will do my ceremony for half of what you charge! Why bother paying the extra money?

Couples spend thousands upon thousands of dollars (even for modest weddings) on details that most attendees – and sometimes even the couple – forget. Most people who attend your wedding won't remember what the flowers looked like, if the groom wore a vest or a cummerbund, or the quality of paper the program was printed on. What they will remember is if the ceremony went smoothly, and the person officiating seemed bright, thoughtful and seemed to genuinely know, care for and connect with the couple. They'll also remember if the officiant rambled, pronounced names wrong, or said something grating or offensive that clearly didn't fit into the couple's worldview. When it comes to wedding officiants, you get what you pay for. Opt for the plain green beans rather than the green beans almondine at your reception, and use the extra \$50 or \$100 you'll save to spring for the best officiant you can find. You and your guests will remember your officiant, but not their side dish.

The other officiant I spoke to is a doctor of divinity! Doesn't that make him/her more qualified than you?

<Insert Expletive Here> no. Historically, a doctor of divinity degree is conferred to an individual by a university to teach theology or related religious subjects. In the United States, a true doctor of divinity degree is honorary. However, **several organizations “sell” these degrees** (or the equally meaningless **doctor of metaphysics degree**) to people willing to

shell out \$30. I find the practice insulting to the true scholars who have worked tirelessly to earn a true doctor-level degree from an accredited university. Anyone who wears the letters DD, MsCD or any other nonsense after their name should be approached with skepticism. Not only has this officiant deluded him or herself into believing they are a doctor, they are trying to delude you into believing it, too. You should be wary of doing business with someone so dishonest.

What are you exactly, anyway? A priest? A minister? A justice of the peace?

I am ordained by the Universal Life Church and licensed by individual jurisdictions (the secretaries of state in Ohio and West Virginia, and in Pennsylvania, within each individual county's **Clerk of Orphans' Court**) to solemnize marriages. That's all. I am not a priest, minister, rabbi, or anything of the sort. Nor am I a justice of the peace, as I'm not a judge. I'm just a guy who can legally marry people.

So what do we call you, then?

Some ordained individuals like to be called reverend (or occasionally father or brother.) I disdain any such title. The title of "reverend" implies the bearer of said title should be *revered*. This, to me, implies moral authority, and as I do not claim such authority (nor do I consider *any* person – living, dead or yet to be born – to be worthy of that claim), I gently but firmly insist that you call me "Tim" or "dude." (You know, that or, uh, His Dudeness, or, uh, Duder, or El Duderino if you're not into the whole brevity thing.)

Is this your full-time job?

It is now! I said farewell to my day job in 2011, and I now officiate weddings full-time. But it's far more than just a job for me – it is a passion and something that I enjoy immensely. I'm very fortunate to get paid to do something I love so much.

How many ceremonies have you performed?
How often do you perform ceremonies?

When I began in 2010, I performed 22 ceremonies. In 2012, I performed 85 ceremonies. I anticipate performing more than 100 ceremonies each year from 2013 onward. In the summer and the warmer months of spring and fall, I perform anywhere from two-to-six ceremonies each weekend, and three-to-four each month in the late fall, winter and early spring months.

We need to get married yesterday! How quickly can you perform our ceremony?

If you're looking for a "quickie" ceremony and your wedding license is about to expire – or if you need a ceremony on short notice for any other reason – I can perform most ceremonies the same day. Just **contact me**.

What are some of the best anagrams of your name?

Hoagie Me Trust, Atheist Morgue, Age The Tourism, Goatee This Rum and Meager Hot Suit.

How many tattoos do you have?

It depends on what you count as a single tattoo. Conservatively speaking, I have nine, but I've been "under the needle" many more times than that.

Which one is your favorite?

This one.

What's the story behind it?

You can read about it **here**.

Are any of them visible when you're clad in your marryin'-people garb? Our grandparents will probably stroke out if you've got some Mike Tyson-esque shit going on.

Negatory. Nothing on my hands, neck or face.

What is the air-speed velocity of an unladen swallow?

Which do you mean? An African or European swallow?

You're a very silly person.

That's not a question.

Do you live in a great house?

Contrary to popular belief, my house is merely adequate.

How would you categorize your ethical and moral perspective of people, creatures and societies?

Chaotic Good.

How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?

Alright, now you're just pissing me off.

You seem like a bit of a jokester.

That's not a question either, but it's true. I don't take myself too seriously – life is too short, in my opinion, to adhere to culture's arbitrary and incredibly boring standards of propriety – but I do take my job very, very seriously. A solemn ceremony need not be without humor, and it's an ingredient I don't neglect. But getting the timing, the proportion and the content right takes a certain *je ne sais quoi* I'm proud to say I've got. In summation: Backstage, I'm a cut-up – onstage, I'm a pro.



What are you waiting for?

[CONTACT](#)

TIM'S CREDENTIALS

I am an ordained ULC minister and am authorized and licensed by the

State of Ohio to solemnize marriages.

Certificate of Authority to Solemnize Marriages (Ohio)

Certificate of Authority to Solemnize Marriages (West Virginia)

Credentials of Ministry (issued by ULC)

Letter of Good Standing (issued by ULC)

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Booking

In order to book your wedding with me, we must first establish that your date, time and location is available within my calendar.

Next, a \$250 Booking Retainer is needed to secure your date and time in my calendar. The Booking Retainer may be paid via Venmo, Apple Pay, PayPal, personal check or cash.

Then, my full fee and Timeline Retainer isn't due until 15 days before your wedding.

That's it! Please read the details below.

For Venmo, Apple Pay or PayPal, just send \$100 to paul@howellgroup.org or 805-540-9294. To mail me a check, please ask me for my mailing address.

PLEASE READ THE DETAILS BELOW. THIS IS OUR CONTRACT

Booking

- After I receive your Booking Retainer I will book your wedding into my calendar, reserve a block of time for your wedding and promise to perform your wedding.
- By remitting your Booking Retainer you are agreeing to the conditions herein and this is our contract. Upon request, I can provide you with a PDF contract for both of us to sign.
- The start time of your ceremony that we agree to at booking may be the only time that I can be available. Please start your wedding ceremony on time (see Ceremony Start Time below).

Booking Retainer

- A \$250 Booking Retainer is required to book with me. The \$250 Booking Retainer will be applied towards my total fee for services that we agree upon.
- The balance of my fee for services is due 15 days before the ceremony day.
- In addition to the balance of my fee for services, a \$100 Timeline Retainer is required 15 days before the ceremony day. The Timeline Retainer will be refunded 24 hours after the wedding provided the ceremony started on time. (See Ceremony Start Time below)

Ceremony Content

- I'll write your entire wedding ceremony based upon the notes I take in our meetings and our communication.
- All that you need to do is look over information that I send you and make choices, making any changes that you wish.
- Please do not ask me to deliver a pre-written ceremony script, as that is not what I do. If you have something that you wish to include to the ceremony that I am preparing, just let me know 30 days before the wedding. Some of it I may use verbatim, some I may not, depending on how I feel it flows within the ceremony as a whole.
- I don't write religious based ceremonies but I am comfortable talking about your faith being important to you and playing a role and purpose for you within your marriage. I am also open to scripture readings or readings that have religious themes. I don't personally offer prayers or blessings but am happy to give space for someone to step up and offer a prayer or blessing to mirror your faith.

Ceremony Start Time

- Punctuality is extremely important, so please begin your wedding ceremony at it's scheduled time. Timeliness is very critical to the venue and other vendors as well as courteous to your guests. Late starts often reverberate poorly through the rest of the day.
- If there is a delay in starting your wedding, there is a chance that I will not be able to perform your ceremony, as I may have other appointments, commitments or another ceremony to officiate after your ceremony.
- If the ceremony begins within 30 minutes of the Start Time, the \$100 Timeline Retainer will be refunded within 24 hours. If the wedding ceremony begins over 30 minutes past the Start Time, the Timeline Retainer will be forfeited and there is a chance that I may not be able to perform your ceremony.
- If your ceremony is over 45 minutes late to begin there will be an additional \$50 charge per each fifteen minute interval and there may be a chance that I will not be able to perform your ceremony.
- The Start Time of your ceremony that we agree on at booking may be the only time that I can be available. If you change the Ceremony Start Time, please let me know immediately.
- I will arrive on-site early, usually 30 minutes prior, to give you reassurance that there are no delays on my part and to complete day-of tasks.

Rehearsal

- Because every wedding is different, every couple's needs are different and every budget is different, a rehearsal is not included in my wedding fee.
- Although I'm not a Wedding Planner/Coordinator, I'm very skilled at coordinating rehearsals. We can talk in detail about whether I need to be a part of your rehearsal and what the fee will be.

License

- I am required by law to have the license before I can marry you. Without it, I will not be able to perform your ceremony. (It is a misdemeanor for an officiant to perform a wedding ceremony without a marriage license). Please bring your marriage license with you to the wedding and make sure that I have it before the ceremony begins.
- The County Clerk/Recorder will reject a license with any mistakes made in filling out the witness or officiant section. If this happens, the county clerk charges you a replacement license fee and reissues the license.
- Before your witness(es) signs the license, I very carefully instruct them exactly how they are to fill in the fields. If the witness makes a mistake, you will be responsible for the replacement fee, so choose a trustworthy witness. If I make a mistake in my section, I will pay the fee.

Cancellation

- Once your date is secured, I will turn away other weddings that will possibly conflict with yours.
- If your wedding is cancelled for any reason, please bear in mind that I may have turned away one or more weddings because of my commitment to yours and I have already put in many hours of work into your wedding so the Booking Retainer is non-refundable.
- If you cancel your wedding within 30 days of its scheduled date for any reason, the entire fee is due and payable on the day of cancellation.
- If you change your ceremony start time and I am unable to accommodate the new time, I will retain your retainer and finding another officiant is your responsibility. As a courtesy, I will reach out to my network of local officiants and do my best to help you find a stand-in.
- If I am unable to officiate on your wedding day for any reason, my fee will be waived, I'll refund your Booking Retainer and you will be responsible for finding another officiant as well as the fee of the person who officiates. As a courtesy, I will reach out to my network of local officiants and do my best to help you find a stand-in.

By remitting your Booking Retainer you are agreeing to the conditions herein and this is our contract. Upon request, I can provide you with a PDF contract for both of us to sign. Upon receipt of your Booking Retainer I will book your wedding into my calendar, reserve a block of time for your wedding and promise to perform your wedding.

I look forward to an enjoyable experience with you in the process of working with you and officiating your wedding!



Wedding Officiant Rev Angelle

Personalized Wedding Ceremonies Designed by Reverend Angelle Keiffer

exceeding expectations since 1999

[click here for frequently asked questions](#)



[Pastor Reverend Angelle Keiffer](#)

[Click here to email](#)

RevAngelle@RoadRunner.com
or call (440)494-6790
(216)400-1749

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(please specify date and location of
wedding)



many references available
upon request



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List logo

BEST Wedding
Officiant

Officiant - Minister - Pastor - Priestess

"Rev Angelle's sincere enthusiasm and effervescent personality make her by far the best wedding Officiant. Her ceremony writing and performance are simply outstanding!"

[\(click here to read more reviews. Many references available upon request\)](#)

Congratulations on your wedding plans! Now you need a licensed minister/officiant/pastor/celebrant to personalize and perform your wedding ceremony. But you do not have a "home church", and therefore no family pastor to marry you?

* Perhaps you and your Mate are from different faith backgrounds and wish to incorporate elements from both traditions on your Special Day. Or maybe you do not practice any religion at all, but still require a justice of the peace to solemnize your marriage.

* If you are searching for a licensed, non-denominational female officiant in the State of Ohio, you may be having a tough time finding someone you can relate to. Worry not! You just found Rev Angelle! (pronounced Ann-gel)

* Rev Angelle specializes in custom-designing wedding ceremonies to suit your needs, tastes and Faith, and is willing to travel to you for your ceremony.

* Local to Cleveland, Ohio, Rev Angelle is willing to travel anywhere in the world. **Arrangements for fees are negotiable(See FAQ below);** wedding ceremonies and wedding vows are customized to suit **your** personal preferences.

* Civil ceremonies, secular (non-religious) ceremonies, or ceremonies with religious traditions, an old-fashioned handfasting ceremony to "tie the knot", or elopement with a Justice of the Peace, your personal choices are respected as your wedding ceremony is planned out, step by step.

* Rev Angelle's wedding ceremonies are original, unique and very highly regarded for their elegant, artistic flavor and enthusiastic personalized styling.

* Want to write your own wedding vows? Rev Angelle can help you perfect them so they are everything you want them to be. Have you always dreamed of having a Renaissance or "theme wedding"? Together we can design any "masquerade" you might desire.

* Counseling for couples, individuals, and families available by request!

"My goal is to create your ceremony so that the language of it speaks to your heart, and to help the first day of your marriage be filled with all you've ever wanted it to be."

Inter-faith, non-denominational, agnostic, atheistic, and couples of all faiths and traditions are welcome.

[for frequently asked questions and rates / fees click here](#)

[Click here to see my getting-to-know-you wedding questionnaire](#)





Video of Rev Angelle reciting an original non-denominational wedding prayer

Video of Rev Angelle concluding a wedding ceremony, "You May Kiss the Bride!" :)

A personal note to my clients:

It's been a tough year for me. My own husband recently passed away. Staying connected to my Ministry work has brought me a great deal of healing, Peace and strength from each family that looks to me for guidance. Sharing in your happiness reminds me that there can still be happiness in the future for me too.

Very much thanks to all of you who have helped me survive these incredibly trying times.

Much Love,

Rev Angelle

Rev Angelle has 17+ years of experience designing and performing weddings of many styles and traditions, as well as counseling families and individuals. If your needs or traditions are not listed below, she will be very glad to do any research needed to create the perfect wedding ceremony for you and your Mate.

Rent-A-Rev for unique original wedding ceremonies - officiant - custom wedding vows - write your wedding vows - religious wedding ceremonies - spiritual wedding ceremony - secular or non-religious ceremonies - multi-faith marriages - non-denominational officiant - nondenominational wedding ceremony - Confidential Weddings - generic weddings - formal wedding ceremonies - casual weddings - beach weddings - wedding gazebo - wedding at a party center - short ceremony - theme weddings - Renaissance Weddings - handfastings - Celtic Traditions - gothic ceremony - Halloween Weddings - costumes - old-world hand fasting - old world customs - modern weddings - modern unique ceremonies - Native American Traditions - Earth-based religions - Cultural Traditions - your cultural heritage - Christian ceremonies - Jewish wedding ceremonies - Hindu Weddings - Russian Weddings - Greek Ceremonies - Eastern Orthodox ceremonies - Military Couples - elopements - Justice of the Peace - Baptisms - Funerals - Eulogies - Memorial Services - Blessings - Christenings - baby naming ceremonies - Quinceanera - 15th birthday - Coming of Age - renew your wedding vows - re-marriages - commitment ceremonies - civil ceremony - gay weddings - same sex wedding - wedding locations - outdoor ceremonies and receptions - inexpensive weddings - elegant weddings - extravagant weddings - underwater weddings - parachuting weddings - humorous, comical ceremonies - biker weddings - out-of-state couples getting married in Ohio - Destination Weddings and much more

for frequently asked questions and rates / fees click here



wedding blessings from a variety of cultures and traditions



VIDEO: How to Clean Your Diamond Ring

Read Our Reviews

from past clients

14 reviews

4.6/5.0

The ceremony was very interesting but very nice. She worked with us and made it memorable

5.0/5.0

We Love Rev. Angelle !! She is caring and conscious about her line of work. Her positivity brightened our day. She is One of a... read full review

5.0/5.0

Angelle was incredible. We wanted something so

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far from traditional and conventional and she never batted an eye. Even when my husband... read full review

Read all 14 Reviews at Weddings, Wedding Cakes, Wedding Planning, Wedding Checklists, Free Wedding Websites, Wedding Dresses, Wedding Ideas & more

Rev Angelle serves a small, multi-faith parish in NE Ohio, and is legally licensed through the Universal Ministries. Rev Angelle is available to officiate and solemnize marriages anywhere in Ohio and many other States. (Photocopy of credentials and/or references available upon request.) She is also available to perform blessings, and baptisms for you or your children, dedication ceremonies, baby naming ceremonies or Christenings, Wiccanings, funerals, eulogies and memorial services and spiritual counseling.

Interested persons should e-mail RevAngelle@RoadRunner.com for more information, or call (216)400-1749 (440)290-9895 Serving all of Northeast Ohio.

for frequently asked questions and rates / fees click here

Click here to see my getting-to-know-you wedding questionnaire

Frequently Asked Wedding Questions

deposits - fees - methods of payment, credit cards - travel - elopements - wedding location ideas - verify my credentials - Clergy attire - microphone - wedding dress - decorated wedding arch - theme weddings - marriage license information - renewal of vows - original ceremonies - out of state couples - ceremony music - no counseling or classes required - face-to-face planning sessions - military couples - on-going spiritual support - no church membership required - baptisms and Christenings - funerals, eulogies and memorial services - commitment ceremonies / same sex marriage - gay weddings

Q: How much will you charge to perform our wedding?

A: Arrangements with me are based on the location and details of your wedding, and I'm happy to work with your budget concerns. (I don't want to turn anyone away!) I'd be glad to discuss these details with you at your free, in-person wedding consultation, and I have many references can give you upon request. (click here to read wedding client reviews)

Q: Do you require a deposit to book our wedding?

A: A deposits will secure wedding date with me. You may put down a deposit when you make arrangements for me to perform your wedding, and then pay the balance the day of your wedding, or in installments, so to break up the cost into more than one payment. I can also accept credit cards via Paypal or Square.

Down payments also serve as a reminder to you, should your plans change before the date arrives, you'll remember to tell me!!! :) I have to turn many couples away who request a date once it has been booked, and you'd be surprised how easy it is to forget to tell me plans got postponed or cancelled. Deposits and installments are also an excellent way to survive the Winter months when there are fewer marriages to perform, but when many couples begin to plan their weddings for the following year.

If you wish for me to offer the Eucharist or Communion at your ceremony, purchase supplies to assist with decorating, or some other special request that requires me to make purchases for your ceremony, this will also require a deposit to cover the costs of the wine and the wafers, or other requested supplies.

I am always happy to bring things I already own to help enhance your ceremony location, such as an altar with flowers and/or wedding candles, seasonal garlands, wreaths, et al. I can also custom-design an altar arrangement for you that can remain intact throughout your reception that will compliment the color scheme of your entire wedding.

Please read the following paragraphs regarding donations, and we can discuss the arrangement that will best suit your preferences and circumstances.

Q: What type or methods of payments do you accept? Do you take credit cards?

A: I can accept cash, checks, money orders, and credit cards and electronic transactions through PayPal or Square. Under certain circumstances I am also willing barter for services with appropriate arrangements made ahead of time.

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or call **(216)400-1749** (440)290-9895 Serving all of Northeast Ohio
(please specify date and location of wedding)

Q: How far will you travel to perform our wedding?

A: Turns out I have developed quite a good reputation for my ceremonies in the State of Ohio, and I get requests to travel all over Ohio to perform weddings. I am also willing to travel long distances for out-of-state or destination weddings. I am based in Lake County Ohio.

Long journeys are more expensive than shorter trips, but if the travel time fits into my schedule, and the extra expense fits into your budget, then it is possible to make arrangements to perform your out-of-town wedding ceremony.

Q: Do you have a church, wedding chapel or other location where we can get married?

A: Yes!!!! I am able to perform weddings just about anywhere. If you desire an elopement or a Justice-of-the-Peace ceremony, I can marry you at a location of your choice, in front of my fireplace, or at the park/beach around the corner from here.

Q: Do you know of other locations where we can get married?

A: The list of wedding ceremony and wedding reception ideas in Northeast Ohio is very long! We should talk! Here are a few examples:



Who wouldn't want to get married in a castle! Willoughby Hills, Ohio offers the beautiful Squire's Castle for both wedding ceremonies and wedding receptions. While there is no charge to use Squire's Castle for your outdoor wedding ceremony location, it is a very popular choice with Ohio brides. You should contact the Parks and Recreation Dept to obtain your 2 hour permit so your day and time are guaranteed, and no one can boot you before your wedding is over. Visit <https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/about/cleveland-metroparks-organization/policies-procedures/permits/wedding-ceremonies-permit> for more information and to get your permit.



This lovely gazebo at Overlook Park in Mentor on the Lake, Ohio overlooks the water and a lovely park, and is an ideal location for do-it-yourself wedding ceremonies and wedding receptions. Your wedding help is welcome to bring all the decorations and refreshments you care to offer. Room inside to fit chairs and wedding guests for 50-75 people. No rental fee, only reservations needed!!! Contact me for more info RevAngelle@roadrunner.com



Holden Arboretum in Mentor, Ohio has both indoor and outdoor locations to rent for your wedding ceremony and reception. This is the view from one of their indoor rooms. [Holden Arboretum](#)



Mapleside Farms in Brunswick, Ohio is a wonderful place to book your wedding ceremony and reception. Their 100 acre location has beautiful views, rooms for hundreds of guests, full catering for your reception, and an attentive staff that really cares to make your wedding day as perfect as possible. Their rates are a fabulous value! [Mapleside Farms](#)



La Malfa Party Center in Mentor, Ohio is a wonderful place to book your wedding ceremony and reception. The offer room for 1,500 guests, full catering for your reception, and an experienced staff that caters great attention to detail. [La Malfa](#)

The Patrician Party Center in Eastlake, Ohio is a wonderful place to book your wedding ceremony and reception. The offer room for 900 guests, full catering for your reception, and



an experienced staff that caters great attention to detail. [Patrician](#)



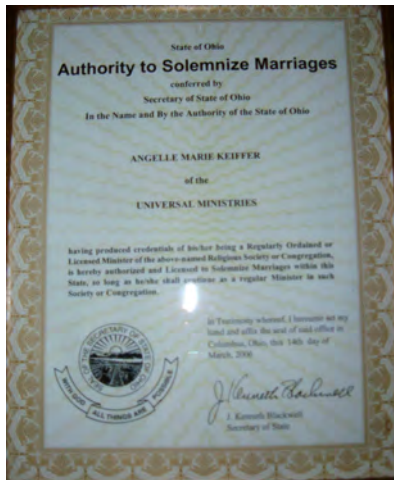
Wildwood Cultural Center in Mentor, Ohio is a wonderful place to book your wedding ceremony and reception. Their has beautiful garden views, room for up to 150 guests, full kitchen for your DIY reception or caterer, great rates, and an atmosphere to die for. [Wildwood Cultural Center](#)



La Vera Party Center in Willoughby, Ohio is a wonderful place to book your wedding ceremony and reception. Their rooms accommodate 350 guests each, full catering for your reception, and a great staff.

Q: How do we know you have a legal minister's license and can sign our marriage certificate?

I am happy to provide a copy of my credentials to you upon request. I am legally ordained through the [Universal Ministries](#), and am licensed to solemnize marriages from the Secretary of State in Ohio. You are also welcome to compare them with the minister's database which is kept by our government and gives you the opportunity to verify the credentials of any ordained minister who is legally licensed to solemnize marriages. [Click here to check my credentials on the Secretary of the State of Ohio's website.](#)



Q: What will you wear when you perform our wedding ceremony?

A: I have a variety of "looks" you can select from that will compliment the style and theme of your wedding. (some pictures at the [top of this page](#)) We can discuss this at your consultation. Costuming by request.

Q: Do you perform theme weddings?

A: Renaissance weddings, Halloween weddings, Christmas weddings, beach weddings, Celtic weddings, Scottish weddings, military weddings, etc. We can design almost any theme you might desire for your ceremony. Our property is always elaborately decorated for Halloween during the entire month of October, as well as the month of December for Christmas.

Q: We Love the idea of having you design our wedding vows and perform our ceremony. Are there other ways in which you can help us plan our wedding?

A: Whether you just need a Minister to Officiate at your wedding, if you need a little help with the last few details of planning your wedding and reception, or if you need assistance with EVERYTHING, I am very happy to help.

Q: Can you help us decorate our wedding arch?

A: I would be happy to help you design and decorate your own wedding arch that can be used for your ceremony, and can remain in place throughout your reception. You can pick up the arch and lights in a box at most craft supply stores

for under \$30. I can advise you on what to purchase to dress it up, or we can assign me a shopping list as part of my service for your wedding.

Q: How do we go about getting a marriage license?

A: This varies from state to state. In Ohio, both the Bride and Groom need to apply for the marriage license together at the Clerk of Courts in the county in which you reside, unless you are from out-of-state, in which case you will apply for your marriage license in the county in which you will get married. [Click here to apply for your County Marriage License Online!](#) Typically this license must be signed by a licensed officiant within 90 days of obtaining it or it will expire. You will both need to go together, and will both need your drivers license or State issued picture ID. If either of you have been married in the past, you will need to bring proof that the marriage has legally ended by divorce or death. If between the ages of 18 and 21, you'll also need a copy of your birth certificate. If between the ages of 16 and 18, parental consent is required.

In Ohio there is no waiting period to receive your marriage license, and no blood tests are required. Average cost of a marriage license runs between \$45, though some counties charge more. For more information regarding marriage licenses in Ohio, [click here](#). For a list of phone numbers and addresses for Ohio county clerk of courts, [click here](#). [For all other states, click here.](#)

For couples who wish to solemnize their vows, but who do not wish to apply for a State-issued marriage license, I am happy to provide you with a lovely Certificate of Marriage that allows you to record and display the date you took your vows on a decorative document.

Q: Do you perform re-marriage, anniversary, or renewal of vows ceremonies?

A: Yes, I do perform renewal of marriage ceremonies. I would be very happy to design your "second wedding" and help you to renew your wedding vows so that it exceeds your expectations.

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(please specify date and location of wedding)

Q: We already had a legal Justice-of-the-Peace service, but now we wish to have a formal wedding ceremony and reception we can share with our family and friends. Would you perform the ceremony for us, even though we are already legally married?

A: Yes, I would love to solemnize your Union with the eyes of Loved Ones before you. No reason to skip the traditions and rituals with Family just because you had reasons to expedite the legal portion of your marriage! :)

Q: We would like to have a marriage ceremony, but do not care to obtain a marriage license. Will you bless or solemnize our wedding without a legal, state-issued document?

A: Yes, I will gladly allow you to say your vows with each other without a state-issued license. I understand there are some who wish to ask for God and Family to be part of their marriage, but not the government. If at some point in the future you choose to obtain a marriage license, I would be happy to sign it for you at that point in time as well.

Q: We do not live in Ohio, but we've heard of your unique, original wedding ceremonies. Can you design a ceremony for our Officiant to use, or can we purchase an original ceremony from you? Do you perform destination weddings?

A: If you are getting married outside of Ohio, but wish to inquire about obtaining an [original ceremony](#) with original vows for your own wedding, [please click here](#). I am also willing to travel the entire globe to perform weddings. Name your wedding location, world-wide, and I'll inquire as to legal requirements for performing the ceremony. I'll follow you anywhere in the United States and Internationally to make your destination wedding perfect.

Q: We live in another state, but are getting married in Ohio to be with our family for our wedding. Can you help us plan our wedding ceremony via long-distance?

A: I would be delighted to help you with your Ohio wedding ceremony while you reside out-of-state. Many people choose to get married in the hometown of their parents or other relatives to make it easier for family to attend. We can work on the details of your ceremony through email and telephone conversations. If there is opportunity to fit in a meeting before the wedding, I am happy to meet with you. But I have performed weddings for many out-of-town couples who need this extra leeway, and I find it is just as easy to provide excellent service to you in this manner as in any other.

You will need to apply for your Ohio marriage license together, in person, in the county you will be married in, once you are in Ohio. But there is no waiting period once you apply, so you can obtain your license on any business day, during business hours, as close as the morning you will get married, if you can find the time. Most folks tend to arrive in town a

few days before their wedding, so I suggest getting your marriage license as soon as possible so that detail on your list is tended to. ([click here to read more about marriage licenses](#))

Q: Can you help us with our ceremony music?

A: Absolutely yes! Most couples tend to select either live musicians to perform their ceremony music (violinists, bagpipes, guitarists, organists, harpists, etc.), or prerecorded ceremony music. I can help you select from the best choices available in professional musicians, and/or I can provide you with hand-selected pre-recorded music and player for your wedding. Whether you prefer to walk down the aisle to traditional bagpipes, live guitar music, traditional classical wedding marches, or something more contemporary, I can help you arrange the perfect music for your wedding ceremony.

Q: Do you require we take Pre Marital Counseling/Classes?

A: No counseling or classes are required, unless requested by the couple. Relationship dynamics is an area of specialty of mine, so I am very happy to offer counseling services for individuals, couples and families. \$50 per session; 90 minute minimum per counseling session.



Q: My fiancé is in the military. Do you offer any discounts to people who are on leave from active duty?

A: While I do not offer any specific "discounts" to active duty personnel, I do offer the same negotiable arrangements to everyone who requests my services. ([click here to read about it](#)) I perform many wedding ceremonies for military brides and military grooms, and am very happy to offer an American Flag that can stand alone in any location and extends up to 8 feet to be part of your wedding ceremony, if you'd like. I can also help you rehearse your Arch of Swords for your ceremony exit.

It is common to find good deal and special courtesies from hotels and such for folks who are serving in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, etc. Deals are often available for folks who are on leave from active combat duties.

Planning sessions: I like to get together with a couple for a face-to-face meeting for an initial interview in which we ask each other questions and get a feel for the task at hand. This allows us to get better acquainted and helps me better design the wedding vows and wedding ceremony. My schedule is most flexible if you are able to meet here, at my home in Mentor on the Lake, and I'm happy to put a pot of tea or coffee on most any time. Additional meetings are arranged if requested by the couple, and there is no limit to how many times I will meet with you.

There are some instances in which the couple cannot make a face-to-face meeting, such as those who live out of town who are coming to this area only to be married near their family, or Brides and Grooms that are in the Military. For these and similar instances, we can easily make all of the arrangements needed with email and telephone conversations, and perhaps we can fit in a meeting closer to your Wedding Day.

On-going support: I am also available by telephone, email and in person should I be needed for emotional support as your wedding plans unfold. I can offer assistance to help ease the stress and tension that people often experience as they plan and prepare for such a momentous occasion. When called upon, I can be a neutral, objective party to whom a Bride or Groom can turn for support, advice, venting etc. as the Wedding Day approaches. You may not have had the benefit of a home church and clergy you feel you can speak with about your relationship and marriage before, but you do now, if you need me.

I am also gladly available should a couple request my services after they are married, for Fellowship, baptism and dedication ceremonies for their children, or as Spiritual Clergy.

Q: Do you require us to be members of a church?

A: No, I do not. Since I am not affiliated with any specific denomination, I am able to perform weddings for people of any faith, or those that do not practice any religion at all, though I especially enjoy customizing your wedding ceremony so it includes any religious or spiritual aspects you desire it to contain. Many folks who do not actively practice religion wish to incorporate features from their family's cultural or religious background when they get married. Some couples prefer not to have any spiritual elements in their ceremony at all.

Should you be seeking spiritual fellowship in your life, you are always welcome to attend the fellowship services that we have here at Universal Ministry. Our fellowship is best described as non-denominational, multi-faith fellowship that

Wedding Officiant Rev. Angelle - Non-Denominational Ofc. Wedding Minister Preacher - Cleveland, Metro OH Pastor, Clergy - Coun...

draws on the best of many wonderful religions and has a strong affinity for Earth-based or Nature based Spirituality.

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(please specify date and location of wedding)

Q: Do you require us to be baptized?

A: No, I do not require it. However, if you wish to be baptized or have a religious dedication ceremony of some sort, I am legally licensed to perform baptisms and Christenings or naming ceremonies for you or your children and I will be happy to baptize you, or to baptize your children. [Click here if you wish more information on becoming baptized.](#) I am also available for Wiccaning ceremonies, dedication ceremonies, funeral services or eulogies, and Blessings for your home or property.

Q: Do you perform funerals, Eulogies or memorial services?

A: Yes, I do. If you have lost a loved one and require clergy to honor their memory at a funeral or memorial service, I am available for these services. [Click here to email](#) or call (216)400-1749 (440)290-9895 Serving all of Northeast Ohio

Q: Do you perform same sex or commitment ceremonies (gay weddings, gay marriage - affirmation of love, Gay, Lesbian, Trans-gendered, GLBT, Civil Unions)?

A: Yes, I do. The State of Ohio (and the entire USA) will now issue a marriage licenses to same-sex couples. For those of you reading this paragraph who object to this practice, please consider the following: any person who approaches me and asks, "Will you please serve us, as a representative of God, so we may ask God to bless our love and our Union? We love each other so very much, and wish to present ourselves before God, and ask that S/he be part of our marriage from the beginning." As a person of Faith, how could I deny such a request? I consider it an honor.

In my opinion, one of God's most important lessons for humankind is the lesson of learning to Love. A couple who is taking that path is life IS abiding by God's wishes, as far as I can tell.

In April 2005 I had the honor of performing one of the first Ohio weddings in which two women were able to obtain a legal marriage license due to the fact that one of them was originally born a man.

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**or call (216)400-1749 or (440)290-9895 Proudly serving all of Northeast Ohio
(please specify date and location of wedding)**

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The following are terms that either describe the services offered by this wedding minister, or areas this wedding minister serves: Mentor, Willoughby, Eastlake, Wickliffe, Beachwood, Pepper Pike, Euclid, South Euclid, Cleveland Heights, University Heights, Chardon, Munson, Geneva, Geneva on the Lake, Madison, Perry, Thompson, Gates Mills, Lyndhurst, Shaker Heights, Lakewood, Bay Village, Westlake, Strongsville, North Royalton, Bedford, Mayfield Village, Mentor on the Lake, Kirtland, Kirtland Hills, Willowick, Ashtabula, Sandusky, Norwalk, Avon, Vermillion, Ohio Official, marriage officiant, Minister, Clergy, Ohio officiant, officiators, Officiator, local wedding officiant, local wedding, local officiant, serving these cities in County: efficient, Local Wedding, minister, Minister, celebrant, Celebrant, clergy, Ohio, wedding chapel, Weddings Chapel, chapel, Chapel, wedding vows, Wedding Vows, officiant, officiate, Officiate, your wedding vows, our wedding vows, officiant, officiate, officiant, officiate, officiators, licensed to solemnize marriages, Marriage Officiant, solemnize, solimize, solemnize marrages, solemnize marrages, Ohio, multi-faith clergy, Multi-Faith Clergy, Inter-Faith marriages, nondenominational wedding ceremony, unique wedding ideas, elope Ohio wedding, Wedding marriage ministers and civil officiators are known by many names: minister, officiant, official, pastor, officiate, officiator, wedding officiant, wedding minister, wedding official, wedding pastor, marriage officiant, marriage minister, ceremony officiant, non-religious officiant, ceremony minister, marriage official, wedding clergy, rabbi, priest, civil officiant, Minister, Ministers, Wedding Officiant, Wedding Officiants, Marriage Officiant, Wedding Ceremony, Marriage Ceremonies, Wedding Service, Wedding Services, Wedding, Weddings, Clergy, Clergymen, Clergyman, clergy woman, wedding lady, <http://lovelaughterelegance.wordpress.com/2007/12/07/lori-doug-a-gorgeous-wedding-in-august/>, wiccan clergy, Wiccan Clergy, wiccan handfasting, pagan handfasting, beach wedding, gazebo, outdoor, outside, Outside, weddings by the water, indoor wedding, custom wedding ceremonies, custom wedding vows, Halloween wedding vows, civil ceremony, elope, elopement, Elope, Elopement, Elopements, elope in Ohio, elopment, elopments, ceremony music, wedding music, <http://www.newsandsentinel.com/page/content.detail/id/510912.html?nav=5065> bagpipes, bagpiper, Bagpiping, piping, pagan clergy, Pagan Clergy, pagan wedding, Wiccan Wedding, Earth religions, Christian Wedding, Jewish Wedding, Baptist, Methodist, Protestant, Catholic, Lutheran, LDS, agnostic, atheistic, Jehovah's Witness, Quaker, Mormon, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Eastern Orthodox, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Seventh Day Adventist, Orthodox Wedding, Native American Ceremony, your cultural heritage, commitment ceremonies, commitment ceremony, your religious preferences, and much more. funeral services, funerals, eulogies, Eulogies, Eulogy, eulogy, memorial services, baptisms, baptize, baptized, wicanning, wiccaning, quinceanera, quincenera, coming of age, 15th birthday, sweet 15, sweet 16, Earth based religion, nature based religion. Fees, prices, donations, gifts, honorarium, chaplain, Chaplain services, pastor, Pastor, Reverend.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/weddingofficiants/>

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*Professional Officiant's Choice
Whimsical Halloween Theme Wedding Script.*

Why Use Our Professional Halloween Theme Ceremony?

Use what professional officiants use for a worry free, beautifully presented legal ceremony.

You can trust on our decades of experience and credibility as Professional Wedding Ministers.

Why would you leave your Wedding Ceremony to chance?

There are no Do Overs with a wedding ceremony!

This ceremony is professionally and tastefully written, the mood it sets is delightfully whimsical,

romantic and fun, while honoring and up holding the vows you make as husband and wife in the highest regard.

The ceremony presentation is sequenced in accordance with national standards of "Lawfully Solemnized Guidelines" which insures the marriage will be legally recognized within any state in the U.S.

Our Whimsical Halloween Ceremony is free of encoded potentially harmful incantations and/or spells or just plain poor taste.

Words have power, this is why you are required by law to speak the vows.

Here's a bit of Wedding Wisdom for you.

Whatever you speak becomes the marriage contract!

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parameters of your marriage.

How to Order ... It's Easy!

Use the PayPal button place your order.

Once your payment has been confirmed the ceremony will be sent to the email you used to make your payment.

The ceremony will be in a PDF format.

During peak hours please allow up to 24 hours for your order to be processed. However, most times you will receive your ceremony within a few minutes of being submitted.

Tip: Remember to check your spam filter if you don't see the order in your inbox.

Need help? Use the form below to contact us.

*Whimsically Romantic - Professionally Designed and Tastefully Written
- Delightfully Heart Warming.*

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Thank You for Your Order!*

Buy Now



Our Signature Whimsical Romantic Halloween Ceremony Script.

No matter what style you choose, this ceremony will capture your whimsy and intertwine your hearts forever more. Both you and your guests will delight in these warm, sincere, yet lighthearted in all the right places.

Our Halloween wedding ceremony is touching, romantic, heart felt and fun. Put

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to the parents and also involves all who attend in a meaningful moment of acknowledgement by way of an interactive pledge of support for the wedding couple by their circle of family and friends.

Whimsical Halloween Ceremony Program

Opening Words

Presenting the Bride and Groom

Reading

Celebrant's Address

Declaration of Intent

Exchange of Vows

Presenting of the Rings

Pronouncement

The Kiss

Recessional

**Professional Whimsical Halloween Wedding Vows Sample:
The following are snippet samples of the ceremony for your review.**

Opening Words

Welcome Family and Friends! Happy Halloween!

We have come together on this festive holiday to bless the marriage of _____
and _____

We, your family and friends are here to celebrate your love.
Halloween is _____ and _____ favorite holiday.

Continued...

Celebrant's Address:

The magic and awe of this season is upon us tonight.
Every Fall, it seems as if this season has been the most spectacular one that
we could possibly remember.

The leaves have made a fiery and bold display of the world around us

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ancestors and those who could not be with us here today.
There are those who could not make the trip.

Continued...

Celebrant addresses the parents:

Parents, you have given your children immortal gifts. The light of this marriage would not be possible without you. Emerson defined success in this way:

Continued...

May I have the Rings Please: Rings - Blessing & Exchange

Celebrant: Rings are the ancient symbol, blessed and simple.

Continued...

Reviews

R. Williams

So glad we found you. Our ceremony was wonderful, We received a lot of compliments from our guests. Thank You!

A. Zimmerman

Your ceremony was just what we wanted. Fun, tasteful and meaningful. Our guests really enjoyed it too. Thank you!

S. Elliott

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Such ceremonies that are offered online, pretending to be harmless Halloween Ceremonies, are often created by dark arts novices and/or inexperienced initiates thinking themselves very clever that they have deceived you into making invitation and contract with entities outside of your marriage without your knowledge or understanding.

They give the ceremonies away freely to the unsuspecting public without disclosure, informed consent, or your full understanding of the very real and serious possible ramifications.

Once the entity / entities are invoked and invited to partake in your ceremony and marriage they bond to the couple to create dark mischief within the relationship and feed off of the negativity they provoke.

We strongly recommend avoiding wording that may sound like an incantation, rhyme or spell in any way, or the use of any odd or unfamiliar words, language or names that you do not clearly understand or recognize.

To do otherwise may put the involved parties at risk and likely peril as such entities are extremely parasitic, causing mental, emotional and physical harm, also it's very difficult to rid yourselves of the dark infestations set upon your marriage by your unwitting invitation.

Why? Because they are there on your invitation.

As Ordained Ministers, we are highly educated and extremely well versed in All Spiritual Matters,...Be It Light Or Dark.

It makes no difference if you are religious, spiritual, agnostic or anything else in such matters.

We hope you will consider this advise in the Sprint in which it is given, to enable you to make wise choices, to honor, cherish, respect and protect the love you share on your journey forward as husband and wife.

Indeed, this is why we make available Our Whimsical Halloween Civil Ceremony to the public.



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Also see our blog *Halloween Theme Wedding Tips and Ideas.*
and Halloween Wedding Themes to Remember
Make Yours Whimsical, Adorable, Romantic and
Fun with a Magical Flair

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Need Help? Contact Us.

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First

Last

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I agree to receiving marketing and promotional materials *

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*Have Questions ... Need Help?
No Worries ... Contact Us!
We are always here for you.*

Reviews

R. Williams

So glad we found you. Our ceremony was wonderful, We received a lot of compliments from our guests. Thank You!

A. Zimmerman

Your ceremony was just what we wanted. Fun, tasteful and meaningful. Our guests really enjoyed it too. Thank you!

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*Revealing and Reflecting the Heart of Christ Within Marriage.
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About American Marriage Ministries



We are a non-profit, interfaith and non-denominational constitutional church that is Federally Recognized by the IRS as a **501(c)3 Public Charitable Organization**. Drawing on the freedom of religion clause in the United States Constitution, AMM provides free ordination, advocacy, and training for our ministers to ensure that all people have the right to get married and to perform marriage. To date, we have ordained over 699,218 ministers who have officiated weddings all across the United States.

We believe that every couple has the constitutionally protected right to enter into the institution of marriage on their own terms, which includes the right to choose who performs their wedding ceremony.

Our Philosophy on Marriage

American Marriage Ministries is a constitutional church, meaning that our mandate is based on this country's foundational documents and the philosophies that inspired the Founding Fathers during the formative years of this nation. We draw inspiration from all who have advanced society's protections of individual freedoms and rights, from Judeo-Christian and eastern teachings, to the enlightenment philosophers, to name a few.

We source these documents and ideas not as scripture, but as insight into how human beings should treat each other with respect and dignity. You can read our



When it comes to marriage, AMM exists to fulfill a spiritual need that other institutions are not willing to, or unable to provide – access to marriage for all, regardless of religion, sexuality, or other defining traits. As the role of mainstream churches dwindles in the modern era, couples are turning to those that they know and trust to bless their marriage. AMM exist to facilitate this choice.

There are no good reasons why a couple should not be able to choose the person performing this most sacred rite. It is your inalienable right to choose the person you want to spend the rest of your life with, and equally so, the person best fit to bless that union.

What We Believe

1. All people, regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation, have the right to marry.
2. It is the right of every couple to choose who will solemnize their marriage.
3. All people have the right to solemnize marriage.

GET ORDAINED
WITH AMM

Become a Wedding
Officiant with Our Free
Online Ordination!

Our Philosophy on Ordination

In order to make marriage and its benefits available to all, AMM's online process removes the conventional barriers to ordination, eliminating mainstream churches as gatekeepers to this institution. Choosing an officiant should be as simple as finding someone that shares the couple's values and beliefs. So, while ordination is an important step, it should not be restricted to individuals that are able to dedicate the long hours and thousands of dollars that many churches demand, especially when it comes to officiating marriages because those costs are ultimately passed on to the couple.



intent to perform marriage and, and are committed to upholding our values in this capacity, then we gladly welcome you into our ministry.

Since 2009 we have ordained over 699,218 ministers who have performed over 250,000 weddings in all 50 States and Territories.

Meet the Church Board

American Marriage Ministries is an **IRS 501(c)3** Public Charitable Organization. We are governed by a board of officers who share a unified understanding that marriage is a right, not a privilege.



Dylan James Wall

Vice-President

As Vice President of AMM, Dylan is dedicated to strengthening the ministry's global fellowship of ministers and providing new officiants with the tools they need to build communities through the institution of marriage. With half a dozen weddings officiated himself, Dylan understands first-hand the challenges that officiants face, and takes their cause personally.



Glen Yoshioka

President

Glen founded American Marriage Ministries in 2009 and has spent the last decade growing the organization's national footprint. It is one of his proudest



make his dream a reality.



Sara White

Officer

Sarah is proud to serve on the board of American Marriage Ministries because she believes that everyone should have the right to marry the person they love, and have that ceremony performed by a person they love. As a long-serving board member, Sarah has helped shepherd the ministry through its remarkable growth. In addition to serving on the AMM board, Sarah works as a Youth Services Librarian at her local public library, and remains an engaged member of her community

Additional Information

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AMM supports Ocean Conservancy. Check them out!



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HOME › OFFICIANT TRAINING › STAR WARS WEDDING

How to Plan a Star Wars Wedding Ceremony

This page is an educational resource for couples exploring the idea of having a Star Wars inspired wedding ceremony.

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WITH AMM

Become a Wedding
Officiant with Our Free
Online Ordination!

In a Wedding Far Far Away...



So, you just got engaged. Congratulations! Be sure to relish this moment: facetime

your loved ones, pop the nice champagne and post that couple selfie on Instagram with as many heart emojis in the caption as you see fit. This moment is one to cherish; you've found your partner in life... and since you've found yourself on this page, we're guessing you've also found your partner in Star Wars fandom.

Here at AMM, we stan cosplay weddings and all other uniquely nerdy themes. (Any couple that challenges the cookie-cutter Pinterest boilerplate of the rustic barn-theme of mason jar centerpieces and whimsical, loopy calligraphy --

Will You Marry Us?

The wedding gift package revolutionizing how you choose **your officiant!**



Star Wars is a particularly fun choice. It's so widely known that all your guests will be able to appreciate the references. And seeing your wedding party in costume will have your guests reeling with sentimentality (and slapping their knees) from the beginning of the ceremony onto the dance floor.

If you're feeling intimidated, don't despair. As one legendary pointy-eared Jedi Master once said, "Fear is the path to the dark side." We've compiled some helpful tips and ideas from other couples that created their own Star Wars-themed dream weddings that will help you navigate the journey of planning your own.

The Preliminary To-Do's

1. HIRE A WEDDING PLANNER



The first decision to make is whether or not you want to hire a wedding planner. It's up to you, but seeking professional

help will save you a lot of time and stress when it comes to organizing and planning your special day.

An experienced wedding planner can really bring your Star Wars vision to life, and prevent it from looking like a cosplay meet up at the convention center. They already have the names of some of the most creative vendors like bakeries, deejays, lighting professionals, photographers and party suppliers in your area

AMM Wedding Helper

Learn About Our Free Tool to Help AMM Ministers Officiate Weddings.



If you aren't prepared to sink the cost of hiring someone full-time, some wedding planners offer consulting services by the hour, and will help you brainstorm and set you up for success at a fraction of the price. You can find pros in your area on WeddingWire.

2. NARROW IN ON YOUR AESTHETIC



Now that you've decided you want to go with a Star Wars theme, you need to decide what that means between you

and your partner. (Your wedding planner can also help you hone in on this.)

Start by asking yourself some key questions: Do you want to have your wedding party cosplay as the characters? Or would you rather keep it more subtle, by saving theme elements for the decor? Do you want to incorporate music from the score into your ceremony and reception? Or do you want to use more classic wedding songs?

Don't worry about answering all these questions right off the bat -- you'll have time to play around with the details later. But it's good to have an idea of your vision before taking the next steps.

3. CHOOSE A VENUE

Before you send out your invites, you'll need to select your venue. Of course, you don't need to fly across the world to have an epic Star Wars-themed celebration, but for the truly dedicated

Ocean Conservancy

AMM supports Ocean Conservancy. Check them out!

Check Out The AMM Blog

Stay up-to-date with the latest wedding industry trends.



list of [destination wedding venues](#), which includes many of the sites used to

film. I mean, we'd be remiss not to mention that you can say "I do" in the exact spot that Padmé and Anakin secretly got married in Attack of the Clones in Lake Como, Italy (pictured.)

For those that are trying to keep their wedding budget outside of the astronomical range, take your time looking around and considering the options in your area. Whether you pick and indoor or outdoor venue, you want to find a venue that will be amenable to your vision. So, before you go to any scheduled visits, come up with some questions to ask the property owner. This article from [Here Comes the Guide](#) has done most of the hard work for you, and your wedding planner can help you come up with any other important inquiries you'll need addressed.

4. DEFINE YOUR COLOR PALETTE



Let's narrow in further on your particular aesthetic by choosing your color palette. This will set the tone for your

event. For a Star Wars theme, [rich jewel tones](#) are a perfect choice for your cosmic love story -- and so refreshing in a sea of light pink and ivory themed weddings. This [readymade color palette](#) is right on the money; it has a warm yellow that reflects the classic logo of the original movie branding, and deep red, purple and green which are, of course, the colors of our favorite

Signature Wedding Officiant Package

Everything you need to Officiate Weddings like pro!



But if you want to customize your own, Bridestory has a comprehensive [guide on how to select your colors](#) here. Once you have four to six colors chosen, you can use your palette as a guide to help pick out the rest of your wedding details, like flowers, lighting, table settings, and your wedding party's attire.

But before we get into any of those fun details, there are just one more to-do that needs to be checked off first.

5. DESIGNING YOUR WEDDING INVITATIONS



Now that you've chosen your venue and your color palette, you're ready to send out your wedding invitations.

These are more than just notifications to your guests of your upcoming nuptials -- they are also a little preview of your wedding and an opportunity to introduce the theme.

One option is to go the traditional route of hiring a professional wedding invitation designer. Your planner will know some reputable stationary designers in your local area that can help you customize your stationary and lettering. This is the most expensive option, but will give you the most control of your results.

Another option is to order a pre-designed invitation, like this one (pictured) from [MarryMakings](#). When you start the ordering process online, you will be prompted to provide your desired text. The designer will implement

Weddings By State

Learn About Marriage Officiant
Registration Requirements All Across
The USA.



version. Once you approve it, you will receive a high quality file which you can have printed at your local print shop. This option will cost you less than \$10 for the digital file, plus whatever the print shop charges you to produce your desired number of invites.

Or, if you know your way around Adobe inDesign, you can make your own invitations. There are [Star Wars fonts](#) available online that are free for non-commercial use. After you download the font, open the .ttf file. Once it's done, you'll see the new font pop up in your regular font lists in your Adobe and Microsoft programs. We will leave the rest of the design to your creativity.

The Wedding Details

Now that you've gotten the preliminary to-do's checked off, it's time to start thinking about the really fun stuff, like costumes and decorations. We have some ideas to help get you started, but we bet your own creativity will end up yielding your favorite details of the day.

One place to start is by checking out what other couples have done to draw inspiration. If you do some googling, you'll find a trove of couples that have pulled together incredible Star Wars themed weddings. This couple was featured in People magazine for their epic rendition -- watch the [YouTuber bride's video](#) about her wedding story for some general tips on throwing a Star Wars themed affair.

Star Wars Attire

10 Sample Wedding Ceremony Scripts

Need inspiration? Check out our free ceremony scripts!

AMM Wedding Wall

App. 175

6/14



If you want to mimic the look of Princess Leia's elegant white dress, which she sports through most of the series, we

recommend choosing a minimalist gown with a high boat neck and long sleeves rather than ordering a costume. Here's one from [Milamira Bride](#) that fits the bill perfectly. We also love this option from [Mimetik](#), which is more versatile -- it can be wrapped in a variety of different styles so you have some options to play with once you receive it in the mail.

Imagine the bride holding a [bouquet of elegant calla lilies](#) in one of these chic gowns. And instead of going for a belt made to look exactly like Leia's -- which may be a bit too utilitarian-looking for your wedding day -- go with a more ornate silver waist belt, [like this one](#).

This style of "[infinity dresses](#)" are perfect for the bridesmaids. Their long drape harkens to the general style of the costume design seen on many of the characters in the series -- plus, your bridesmaids will enjoy choosing how they want to wrap the dresses, which are also customizable depending on how you choose to wrap them. These come in jewel tones like deep blue and purple to match your color palette, but of course, do some poking around online and in bridal shops to see if any other options jump out at you.

The hairstyles of the bride and her bridesmaids will help complete your looks. [This video](#) shows you Leia's trademark buns, plus Rey and Padmé's unique styles. This second video shows



than you can handle, a professional can help you execute these do's, or if you're handy with a comb and want to practice prior to your wedding day to save a few hundred dollars, go for it!

Accessorize with some blingy, [cosmic hair pins](#) and [crystal rings](#) your bridesmaids will be transformed into a cosmic girl gang. We can already imagine the photos.

THE GROOM & GROOMSMEN



If you're feeling too intimidated to go into full-blown costume, you can always go with a [classic tux](#) for the groom and

groomsmen, which would be a more conservative choice. But if you have an inkling of an itch to get into character, we say, follow your heart. How legit is this [Anakin Skywalker](#) getup for the groom? This [Star Wars fan](#) from Wisconsin pulled together his own version on his wedding day and looked galactically galant.

Okay, hear us out: [Stormtrooper groomsmen](#). Picture your dudes in full armor appearing at the entryway of the aisle arm-in-arm with each of the lovely bridesmaids as they escort them to the altar. Your guests will be pondering who's behind the helmets for the time-being, but once they make it to the front, they can remove their headgear for some air and reveal their identities. If it seems crazy/expensive to have all of your groomsmen in stormtrooper cosplay, compromise by picking a couple of your best mates to do it and perhaps have the others



RING BEARER AND FLOWER GIRLS



How about starting off the ceremony procession with cute duo of [Princess Leia flower girls](#)? (Photo by Caca Santoro

Photography). They could wear these [child-sized Leia dresses](#) -- or any white dresses for that matter -- as long as they have the essential double cinnamon buns.

And is there a little tike in your friend/family network that is yoda-sized? If yes, check out this toddler's [Yoda costume](#) for a little yoda ring bearer. After the wedding, you will get to call the little volunteer yoda for the rest of his life. Do not miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. (If you have a brave costume make-up savvy friend who is game for a challenge, we are going to leave this more realistic [Yoda make-up tutorial here](#).)

As a final suggestion on attire, if you are having trouble deciding if you want to cosplay or go with classic wedding-wear, consider choosing two outfits: one for the ceremony, and one for the reception. It is not uncommon for a bride to pick one dress for the ceremony and one dress for the reception, so feel free to dress up for the ceremony and dress down for the reception. It's a good compromise.

The Wedding Ceremony

Minister Ordination Package

Everything you need to officiate your first wedding.



You certainly don't have to make your Star Wars theme a big part of your ceremony -- if you'd like to keep your vows more serious and reverent, you can save all the fun for the reception. But imagine the classic [Star Wars theme song](#) booming over the speakers as your troop of Leia flower girls, life-sized yoda and army of stormtroopers parade down the aisle. Your guests will have to resist keeling over while watching each new set of familiar faces appear decked out in costume.

Perhaps save "[Across the Stars](#)" (Anakin and Padmé's theme featured in Episode II) for the bride's walk down the aisle, which will create a more romantic, serious tone after your comical entry march of cosplayers.

The officiant's speech during the ceremony is a prime opportunity to incorporate your favorite movie themes and classic quotes, like "The Force runs strong in your family. Pass on what you have learned," and "The Force will be with you. Always." Bustle even compiled a list of [Star Wars quotes](#) Perfect for Your Wedding Vows.

If you and your officiant need help writing a script, you can check out our [sample ceremony scripts](#), which can serve as a foundation for you to weave in your favorite themes, add in little jokes, and even skits; ([this couple's](#) officiant embodied Darth Vader and it was as hilarious as



RECEPTION ELEMENTS

When dreaming up your reception's aesthetic, don't feel like you have to keep all of your decor strictly "Star Wars" themed. Feel free to mix in other decor (using your color palette as a compass) so that the Star Wars pieces you choose really stand out.

The opportunities are limitless, but we really love an astronomy or starry night motif as a starting point. Lighting will be a game-changer for this particular theme. Imagine your gathering of friends and family celebrating your celestial union beneath a [canopy of lights](#) made to look like you're in deep space. (This can be achieved in an indoor or outdoor venue.) Check out Bridal Musings' [guide to lighting](#) and this [starry night wedding guide](#) to get some ideas of what is possible. Then, your wedding planner can help you find a pro to orchestrate your other-worldly ambiance.

Your table settings are another great place to get creative and really pull the theme together. We love the look of these [black sequin table cloths](#) to serve as a backdrop to your centerpieces and cutlery.

As far as centerpieces ideas go: these battery-powered fiber optic [LED lamps](#) that you remember from your childhood perfectly set the mood. Or how about these [3D moons](#), which would really make your reception feel like another dimension? Can't choose between these two? Decorate half of your tables with LED lamps and half with moons. So much better-suited than flowers, and guests can take them home as

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And while we're talking about tables, you could even snag a deck of these beautiful art deco [Star Wars playing cards](#) to serve as table labels and some [simple card holders](#) to help guests find their seats.

Besides the visual elements, there are some other things to think about when planning the reception. This is a perfect opportunity to set a light-hearted tone to the party with a good skit, if that's your thing! [This couple](#) performed a rather suspenseful lightsaber battle before their first dance, which was equal parts absurd and romantic. If you'd rather not worry about memorizing such a performance, ask your wedding party if they feel inspired to arrange their own.

Another idea would be to include a [photo booth](#) with Star Wars-themed props for your guests to try on, like [lightsabers](#) and [Princess Leia headbands](#) for instant cinnamon-bun hair. All of your guests will go home with their own photo memento from the evening.

May the Force Be With Your Wedding

Our final piece of advice is borrowed from Yoda: "Try not! Do or do not, there is no try." We hope that we've inspired you to pursue your Star Wars dream wedding, whether your planning an all-out cosplay bash or a sophisticated, subtle celebration.

If you need some guidance on accomplishing the legal to-do's of your wedding, AMM has you covered there as well. Check out our [marriage](#)



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May the Force be with you from Jedi Bob at this Star Wars Wedding Ceremony

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May the Force be with you from Jedi Bob at this Star Wars Wedding Ceremony

May the Force be with you from Jedi Bob at this Star Wars Wedding Ceremony

On October 10, 2012 by Great Officiants
in [Beach wedding](#), [Star Wars wedding](#), [Themed wedding](#)
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I got to do my first Star Wars themed wedding. They asked me to dress up and prepare a Star Wars

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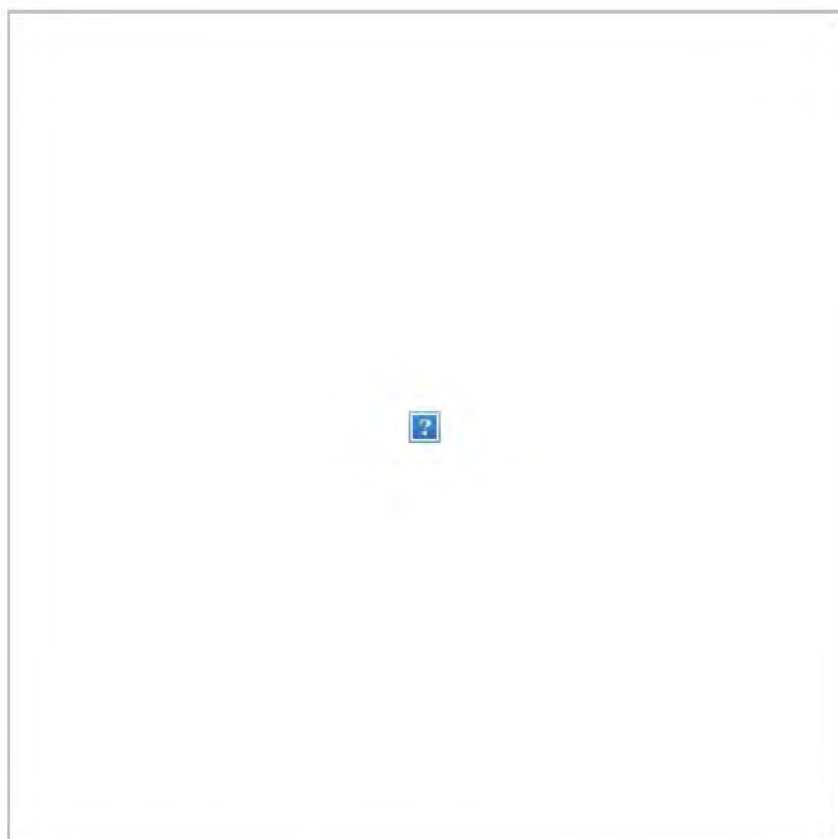
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inspired ceremony for them. I borrowed a Jedi costume and Rocked the wedding on the beach.

For fun at the beginning of the ceremony I introduced myself as Jedi Bob. It got a few chuckles.

Here is a cool Picture from the photographer Srdjan. This is his blog <http://blog.aandmphoto.com/>

Check out the full ceremony below the picture.



Welcome my brother and sister Jedi! Today we have a great honor to celebrate the coming together of Justin and Jessica bond with one another was forged through the force and strengthened by it so that their efforts together could be stronger than the efforts of any two other Jedi.

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Area

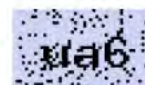
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This relationship began long time ago in a galaxy far far away.

If any imperial scum can think of a feeble reason why these two powerful warriors should not be joined, speak now and be summarily executed.

We are assembled here today in the presence of love but also the Dark Side.

Today we join Justin and Jessica in galactic marriage, which is honored by the Jedi Council, regulated by decrees, sanctioned by the Imperial Senate, and to be held in honor among all members of the Empire. Let us therefore judiciously remember that the Jedi has established and ordained marriage, for the extending of its force and the crushing of its enemies. Yoda has asserted that a husband shall forsake his forebears (or eliminate them completely) and cleave unto his wife. Those who enter into this agreement to cherish a mutual esteem and love, to bear each other's infirmities and weaknesses (unless doing so results in defeat); to comfort each other in sickness, trouble, sorrow, and galactic rebellion; in honesty and industry provide for each other; to encourage each other in things which pertain to the force; and to live together as heirs to the full domination of the galaxy against the imperial troops. But your love will defeat the empire and return it to the Jedi

Vows

Justin

My Queen, may the Force be with us as we travel through the galaxy of life. I pledge to never turn to

the Dark Side but stand forever in the illumination of our love. I vow to fight the Evil Emperor and I invite you take your place at my side as we rule the galaxy. Together we can withstand anything, even the Death Star, Jabba the Hut and Darth Vader. Come with me and we will make this world and the others around it ours. I'll take part in any rebellion you want and pledge my life and love to you, Princess. Take my hand and stand with me for light and justice throughout our lives.

Jessica

My Jedi, my love, I take your hand and accept your pledge. May the force be strong with us all the days of our lives. There is good in you, I sense it. Remain a Jedi and I will stand by you. No matter what world we crash land on, I know that you will take good care of us. No matter what happened in the past, I know you are brave, intelligent and I love you. Together we can stand against injustice wherever we find it and bring freedom to our world.

I pledge to you my love and my companionship as long as I live.

Exchanging of the Rings

Master Yoda, invest these rings with your power which you have set apart to be visible signs of the inward and powerful bond which unites their hearts. As they give and receive these rings, may they testify to the galaxy of the covenant made between them here.

I give you this Jedi symbol of love. To have and to hold in sickness and health to obtain the riches of

the galaxy . By the joining of the two rings together we can defeat all our challenges and the empire together.

Search your feelings; you know it to be true. You are entering into an accord as life partners to avoid the Dark Side of the force. The quality of your marriage will reflect what you put into nurturing this relationship and how loyal you are to each other and to the force. You have the opportunity to go forward from this day to create a faithful, kind, tender, strict, and loving relationship. The galaxy gives you its full blessing today. It is up to you to keep the force flowing each and every day of your lives together. We command for you the wisdom, compassion, and constancy to create a peaceful sanctuary in which you can both grow in love.

By the power vested in my by the Jedi council I now pronounce you Husband and wife

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About Us



Fantasy Nyc Wedding Officiant is a wedding officiant who lives in Brooklyn, New York.

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Fantasy Nyc Wedding Officiant specializes in officiating civil and non-denominational wedding ceremonies and vow renewals. He makes your wishes and beliefs the priority when planning your ceremony. Lenny has experience with gothic, gay, rock and roll, Halloween, punk and other left-of-center weddings. He is open to any type of ceremony and welcomes all couples, beliefs, and backgrounds.

Fantasy Wedding Officiant creates one-of-a-kind and customized wedding ceremonies that reflect your theme, style, and personality. Lenny helps each individual express his or her heart for personalized vows. He creates a custom package for you based on your needs and type of ceremony. Lenny offers premarital counseling to help start your marriage on the right track. Counseling focuses on providing the tools to help couples achieve a better understanding of each other. Many styles of ceremonies can be performed, like civil, traditional, spiritual, non-religious, religious, interfaith, LGBTQ, and commitment ceremonies, whether they're themed or more traditional. Spanish and bilingual services are available.

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Florida man officiates weddings as 'Pirates of the Caribbean' Capt. Jack Sparrow

By BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE
SUN SENTINEL | OCT 02, 2015 | 12:00 AM

The bride and the groom stood by the altar, with bridesmaids and groomsmen standing by their sides. Friends and family were seated. Then a man dressed as Capt. Jack Sparrow, from the Disney blockbuster franchise, "Pirates of the Caribbean," sauntered down the aisle, heading straight for the wedding "officiant."

Camp does about 120 to 125 weddings per year, he said, with 12 to 15 of those dressed as Captain Jack.



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Religious Affiliations

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Wedding Activities

Wedding, Ceremony



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Wicca

RELIGION

WRITTEN BY: [J. Gordon Melton](#)

LAST UPDATED: May 20, 2020 [See Article History](#)

Wicca, a predominantly Western movement whose followers practice [witchcraft](#) and [nature worship](#) and who see it as a [religion](#) based on pre-[Christian](#) traditions of northern and western Europe. It spread through [England](#) in the 1950s and subsequently attracted followers in Europe and the [United States](#).

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Origins And Beliefs

Although there were precursors to the movement, the origins of modern Wicca can be traced to a retired British civil servant, [Gerald Brousseau Gardner](#) (1884–1964). Gardner spent most of his career in Asia, where he became familiar with a variety of occult beliefs and magical practices. He also read widely in Western esoteric literature, including the writings of the British occultist [Aleister Crowley](#). Returning to England shortly before the outbreak of [World War II](#), Gardner became involved in the British occult community and founded a new movement based on a reverence of nature, the practice of [magic](#), and the worship of a female deity (the [Goddess](#)) and numerous associated deities (such as the Horned God). He also borrowed liberally from Western witchcraft traditions. Following the 1951 repeal of England's archaic Witchcraft Laws, Gardner published *Witchcraft Today* (1954), founded his first [coven](#) of followers, and, with input from its members, especially author Doreen Valiente, developed modern witchcraft into what today is known as Wicca. It spread quickly to the United States in the late 1960s, when an emphasis on nature, unconventional lifestyles, and a search for [spirituality](#) divorced from traditional religions were especially in vogue.

Covens, which ideally number 10 to 15 members and are entered through an initiation [ritual](#), sometime align with one of many coven associations. As coven members master the practice of magic and become familiar with the rituals, they pass through two degrees of initiation. There is a third degree for those who wish to enter the [priesthood](#). In Gardner's system priority is given to the priestess, and leaders in the Gardnerian community trace their authority through a lineage of priestesses back to Gardner's coven.

Despite variation within the Wiccan community, most believers share a general set of beliefs and practices. They believe in the Goddess, respect nature, and hold both [polytheistic](#) and [pantheistic](#) views. Most Wiccans accept the so-called Wiccan Rede, an ethical code that states "If it harm none, do what you will." Wiccans believe in [meditation](#) and participate in rituals throughout the year, celebrating the new and full moon, as well as the [vernal equinox](#), [summer solstice](#), and [Halloween](#), which they call [Samhain](#). Wiccan rites include invoking the aid of the deities, practicing ceremonial magic, and sharing a ritual meal.

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Most controversial to outsiders is that Wiccans call themselves *witches*, a term which most Westerners identify with [Satanism](#). As a result, Wiccans are continually denying any connection with [Satan](#) or devil worship. Wiccans have also attempted to establish ties with other polytheistic ([Hindu](#)) and nature-oriented ([Native American](#)) religious [communities](#).

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Later Developments

By the 1980s there were an estimated 50,000 Wiccans in western Europe and [North America](#). Although the growth rate slowed by the end of the decade, Wicca gained increasing social acceptance and diversified to include numerous variations on Gardner's original teachings and rituals. Moreover, new Wiccan groups emerged independent of the Gardnerians, including one led by Alexander Sanders (1926–1988), the Dianic Wiccans who saw Wicca as a woman's religion, and the parallel [Neo-Pagan](#) movement, which also worshipped the Goddess and practiced witchcraft but [eschewed the designation *witch*](#). A major controversy developed in the United States in the 1960s and 1970s, when a faction of Wiccans broke with Gardner's notion that clothes [inhibited](#)

magical workings and chose not to follow his practice of worshipping in the nude. Instead they donned ritual robes, claiming pre-Gardnerian sources for their beliefs, and called themselves Traditionalists.

As Wicca and [Neo-Paganism](#) moved into their second generation, belief faded in the notion that Gardner had inherited a set of witchcraft rituals and practices that had been passed on through a tradition with unbroken ties to pre-Christian paganism. Although many Wiccans once cited the work of [Margaret Murray](#), including *The Witch-Cult in Western Europe* (1921) and her article “Witchcraft” published in the 14th edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* (1929), in support of their belief in the ancient origins of their religion, they now generally recognize that Wicca began with Gardner and his associates.

As the 21st century began, Wiccans and Neo-Pagans were found throughout the English-speaking world and across northern and western Europe. Estimates of adherents ranged dramatically, with the number of Wiccans in the United States believed to be between 100,000 and more than 1.5 million. The Pagan Federation, an international fellowship, serves the larger Wiccan/Neo-Pagan community.

J. Gordon Melton

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The New York Times<https://nyti.ms/2nEetYw>

Happily, Ever Open

What's the wedding like when the couple is in an open or polyamorous relationship?

By Maggie Parker

Published Oct. 2, 2019 Updated Oct. 3, 2019

Daley South had six bridesmaids in her 2016 wedding to Logan South; one of them was her husband's girlfriend.

The Souths are in an open and polyamorous relationship and have been since they started dating seven years ago. "We were actually all dating at first," Ms. South said of her bridesmaid, Ilona Westenra. "I really enjoyed having her be a part of our big day."

There weren't any rules about how Mr. South should interact with his girlfriend during the wedding. All of their guests knew about their relationship status (although their parents weren't completely on board) and Ms. South was perfectly fine with them spending time together during the event, which was at the TFWC Mansion in Austin, Tex.

"As long as he and I were the main focus for that one big day, I was perfectly content," said Ms. South, 31, who is a certified wedding planner. So, Mr. South, 32, did kiss his girlfriend a few times but said he spent "the entire night by my new wife's side."

People are becoming more curious about consensual non-monogamy. A 2015 study from the Journal of Sex Research found that searches for terms related to polyamorous, non-monogamous and open relationships have been rising steadily for the past decade.

But questions remain: Will the couple stay open after the wedding? What is a wedding like when the couple is non-monogamous? Are other partners invited or involved? What are the vows like? Actually, the most common question the Souths got was, “What’s the point of the wedding?”

Sarah Fraser, a licensed clinical psychologist practicing in New York City, specializes in unconventional partnerships and sexuality. She has heard from several patients that outsiders who have expressed “being non-monogamous might be acceptable before a couple gets married.” They felt those outsiders expected them to “close their relationship after marriage because then the relationship is more ‘serious.’”

But within their circle, everyone was extremely excited about the Souths’ union.

The groom’s girlfriend, Ms. Westenra, said through an email: “Being in a relationship with the groom obviously offered some awkwardness but the love far outweighed any uncomfotability. Seeing my boyfriend marry the love of his life was the most beautiful thing I’ve ever felt. The love in that room was so overwhelming I couldn’t feel anything but pure love and happiness for the two of them and in extension, myself, because I get to be a part of this wonderful family.”

People who choose to be in non-monogamous relationships are often perceived as anti-commitment, said Cathy Keen, 39, the community manager of alternative dating app Feeld and who is one-third of her relationship.

But that’s just wrong, said Ms. Keen, who was also asked “what the point was” when she married her non-monogamous partner. “The thing I think a lot of people presume about a relationship that’s not traditional, monogamous or heteronormative is that commitment is not valued. It’s based upon sex and being able to move quickly, and that’s just wrong,” she said.

“Thomas and I are very committed to one another and our family unit.” She’s been married to her husband, Thomas Keen, 34, since 2013, and they’ve always been open. They’ve been in a three-person relationship for two years. The Keens also have an 8-year-old son.



Ms. South did not object to Mr. South interacting with his girlfriend during the wedding. “As long as he and I were the main focus for that one big day, I was perfectly content,” she said. Creatrix Photography

The couple, though, weren’t dating anyone else when they got married. Their third partner wasn’t in the picture at the time, but if she had been, Ms. Keen said she would have been invited to the wedding.

The Souths had 350 people at their wedding. “We wanted absolutely everyone who has made an impact on our lives to be there,” Ms. South said.

On the big day, it seems common for open couples to invite or include their other partners. Anastasia Stevenson, a wedding planner in Los Angeles and Boothbay Harbor, Me., has planned hundreds of events, including two polyamorous ceremonies. One took place at a spa in Malibu, Calif., where a heterosexual couple was having a legal ceremony, with their additional partners incorporated into various parts of the event.

“Two women in their relationship served as bridesmaids; one man in the relationship acted as best man for the groom and ‘gave’ the bride away,” Ms. Stevenson said. “The event was framed as a celebration for all of them, not just the marrying couple.”

The other wedding she planned for a polyamorous couple was a little more complicated because the bride’s parents didn’t know about their openness, though the other partners were still invited.

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“It’s not just about the ability to sleep with other people, it’s a freedom to access love in different forms,” said Bethany Meyers and Nico Tortorella, who were married last year in a private ceremony at City Hall. They wore matching outfits designed by Mr. Tortorella’s ex boyfriend. Victoria Mathews

The actor Nico Tortorella, 31, wed the founder of the be.come project, Bethany C. Meyers, 33, in 2018. Their ceremony took place at the Manhattan Marriage Bureau with no guests. Their photographer was their witness, and they also had an assistant there to make sure things ran smoothly. They didn’t have a reception. However, Tortorella’s ex-boyfriend, Andrew Morrison, designed their outfits and was there to help them get ready.

(The couple does not use gender-specific honorifics, and each prefers the pronoun they.)

“Even if they were still dating, I would have wanted him to design our outfits,” Meyers said. Tortorella said if Meyers had been in a meaningful relationship at the time, they would have wanted that person there.

One other small detail noted in the South and Keen weddings was the elimination of any mention of “forsaking all others” in the ceremony. At the same time, neither couple put anything in their self-written vows about continuing to keep their relationship open. The closest the Keens came was in a speech Ms. Keen gave during the reception.

“I wrote a poem and in there I said something about how many people are a part of our relationship, no one picked up on it,” she recalled.

Other than that, all of these weddings were a lot like any other wedding you’d get invited to or hear about. “We wanted the wedding to be a complete showcase of who we are as a couple,” Ms. South said. “We wanted people to walk in and immediately say, ‘Yep, this is Logan and Daley,’” Mr. South said. That meant having a twin flame ceremony, custom dishes (Mr. South’s request) and no first look. “It was super important to me to have the first time we saw each other at the end of the aisle,” Ms. South said.

“This relationship felt to both of us not like a trap, not like this impossible set of ideals that you have to live up to,” said Ms. Keen who is in a three-person relationship with her husband and their girlfriend.

Voyteck Photography

For the Keens, that meant getting married at Chelsea Town Hall in London, riding off on bikes with water bottles tied to the back wearing leather jackets with “Just Married” written on them and having a big party at a club with hundreds of guests. But most symbolically, it also meant incorporating nature, because “this is the most

natural relationship either of us have ever had,” Ms. Keen said. When they decided to “open” their relationship, she said, it was “natural.” After their town hall ceremony, they had another ceremony that 120 friends and family members attended at Wormholt Park in London. When they said their vows, they took off their shoes.

“It felt right, this relationship felt to both of us not like a trap, not like this impossible set of ideals that you have to live up to, which I really felt in previous relationships and so did he,” Ms. Keen said. “So, we took it out of a church, we got rid of the whole pomp and procedure, and we made it about family and our son and about the earth and the moment.”

Tortorella and Meyers, who are nonbinary, prioritized intimacy and their outfits. “We were both wearing pants with like a robe over it and we both had crowns on,” Meyers said. Tortorella said the Grecian-style designs reflected them. “What we wore, we both represented this gender nonconformity and this equalness that is really important in our relationship,” said Tortorella, who addresses their journey to fluidity in the memoir “Space Between,” which was recently published by Penguin Random House.

The Malibu wedding Ms. Stevenson planned involved clothing optional events and the hosts were all in various stages of undress throughout the event.

“The overall feeling was one of joy and a deliberate playfulness without inhibitions,” Ms. Stevenson said. She believes this is what can make a non-monogamous wedding different from that of a monogamous couple’s wedding. “I absolutely think that relationship status and a couple’s attitude toward their relationship and life in general directly affects their event planning,” she said. The other wedding was “completely traditional.”

However, even though that still-closeted couple’s wedding was more “staid and rigid,” Ms. Stevenson said, they hosted another party after the formal ceremony and reception, where they celebrated openly with their other partners, without their family.

Ms. Keen believes it takes a certain person to make an open relationship work, and “not a neurotic person or a paranoid person.”

“All three of us are very, very comfortable in our own skin,” she said of herself, her husband and their girlfriend. “That makes you a much better participant in this kind of relationship. Because you’re not relying on anyone else to give you stability. You’re relying on yourself, you’re making your own rules and you have your own boundaries.”

All three brides found wedding planning to be minimally stressful, if at all.

Tortorella sees it similarly. “I think there’s just a level of freedom that exists in every part of our relationship, or really any non-monogamous relationship, that doesn’t necessarily exist in a monogamous relationship,” Tortorella said. “And it’s not just about the ability to sleep with other people. It’s a freedom to access love in different forms. And I think our wedding reflected that.”

At the end of the day, Meyers believes the essence of a wedding is the same no matter what the couple believes in terms of monogamy. “It was really just about Nico and me and the most beautiful day I’ve ever experienced,” Meyers said.

“And I feel like no matter what kind of wedding you have, that feeling exists. It’s the underlying theme, and I think that’s what makes weddings so special.”

lifestyle coverage on Facebook (Styles and Modern Love), Twitter (Styles, Fashion and Weddings) and Instagram.

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LGB Families and Relationships: Analyses of the 2013 National Health Interview Survey



the
Williams
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October 2014

by Gary J. Gates

Executive Summary

The addition of a sexual orientation identity measure to the 2013 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) offers a new data source to consider characteristics of families and explore differences among those led by same-sex and different-sex married and unmarried couples and LGB individuals who are not married or cohabiting. These analyses consider differences and similarities across these groups with regard to demographic characteristics including gender, age, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, geographic location, and child-rearing.

The analyses suggest that there are an estimated 690,000 same-sex couples in the United States. Approximately 18% of whom, or more than 124,000, reported that they were married. If estimates of married same-sex couples are derived only from the portion of 2013 that followed the US Supreme Court ruling in *United States v. Windsor* and are not based on data collected prior to the ruling (which effectively provided for federal recognition of the marriages of same-sex couples), then the estimate of married same-sex couples increases to 130,000.

Other key findings from the analyses include:

- An estimated 4 in 10 LGB adults (40%) reported either being married or in a cohabiting relationship with a partner compared to 6 in 10 non-LGB adults (60%).
 - Among women, more than half who identified as lesbian (51%) were married or in a cohabiting partnership compared to 57% of non-LGB women. Among bisexual women, the comparable figure was 32%.
 - Just over a third of gay and bisexual men (35% and 34%, respectively) were coupled compared to 63% of non-LGB men.
- A higher proportion of same-sex couples lived in the West when compared to different-sex couples (32% v. 23%, respectively) while a lower portion lived in the Midwest (12% v. 23%, respectively). Among those not in a couple, LGB individuals were less likely than their non-LGB counterparts to live in the Midwest (15% v. 22%).
 - Married same-sex couples were much more likely than their different-sex counterparts to live in the Northeast (39% v. 17%, respectively), where marriage for same-sex couples was the most widely available in 2013. An estimated 12% of married same-sex couples lived in the South compared to 38% of their different-sex counterparts.
 - Unmarried same-sex couples were more likely than their unmarried different-sex couple counterparts to live in the West and less likely to live in the Midwest.
- Those in same-sex couples and LGB individuals who were not part of a couple were generally younger than their different-sex coupled and non-LGB counterparts, respectively.
- Same-sex couples were twice as likely as their different-sex counterparts to be inter-racial/ethnic (19% v. 9%, respectively).
- Those in same-sex couples, particularly married same-sex couples, and LGB individuals who were not in a couple were more likely than those in different-sex couples and non-LGB individuals, respectively, to have a college degree. Two-thirds of individuals in married same-sex couples (66%) had a college degree.
- An estimated 19% of same-sex couples and LGB individuals who were not in a couple were raising children under the age of 18 in the home.
 - An estimated 30,000 children under age 18 have married same-sex parents while 170,000 have unmarried same-sex parents.
 - Between 1.1 and 2 million children under age 18 have an LGB parent who is not part of a married or unmarried couple.

Introduction

Substantial demographic research exists focusing on analyses of cohabiting same-sex couples identified in US Census Bureau data (Black et al. 2000; Gates and Ost 2004; Gates and Cooke 2010; Baumle 2013; Kastanis and Wilson 2013). Unfortunately, the Census Bureau data do not provide a very accurate way to identify married same-sex couples (O’Connell and Feliz 2011; Gates and Steinberger 2009; Cohn 2014). Comparisons of demographic and geographic characteristics among those in married and unmarried same-sex couples along with lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) individuals who do not have a spouse or cohabiting partner are relatively rare.

The addition of a sexual orientation identity measure to the 2013 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) offers a new data source to consider characteristics of families and explore differences among those led by same-sex and different-sex married and unmarried couples and LGB individuals who are not married or cohabiting. These analyses consider differences and similarities across these groups with regard to demographic characteristics including gender, age, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, geographic location, and child-rearing.

Data and methodology

Table 1 presents details of the NHIS data used in these analyses. It is a publically-funded survey conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The survey samples families in the US and collects information on all members of those families, including their relationship to a reference person identified in each family. It is this information that allows for identification of families led by married and unmarried same-sex or different-sex couples. An adult-only sample (drawn from the family respondents) includes a question that allows respondents to describe their sexual orientation identity.

Analyses include descriptions of family characteristics (e.g., region of residence, child-rearing) and characteristics of individual adults (e.g., age, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, sexual orientation identity). Estimates use weighting procedures provided by the NHIS that allow for population estimates and interpretation of findings to be considered representative of families and the adult population (aged 18 and older) in the US.

In charts and figures that compare estimates between same-sex and different-sex couples or LGB and non-LGB adults, differences that are statistically significant are shown in **boldface** while differences that are not statistically different are shown in *italics*.

Table 1. Survey characteristics.

Survey	Survey sponsor	Data collection mode	Sample characteristics	Sexual orientation identity question (asked of adult sample)	Total sample size	LGB and couple sample sizes
National Health Interview Survey (2013)	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics	Computer-Assisted Personal Interview conducted in the home. Respondents in the adult sample (aged 18 and older) provide their response to the sexual orientation identity question to an interviewer who then enters the response into a computer.	The NHIS includes three samples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative sample of families residing in the US • Representative sample of the population of the US in those families (all ages) • Representative sample of adults aged 18 and older 	Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesbian or gay • Straight, that is, not gay • Bisexual • Something else • I don’t know the answer 	Families: 42,321 Population: 104,520 Adults: 34,577	Individuals: Lesbian/gay: 571 Bisexual: 233 Heterosexual: 32,546 Non-coupled LGB: 548 Couple families: Same-sex unmarried: 179 Same-sex married: 44 Different-sex unmarried: 2,599 Different-sex married: 19,284

Data from the Gallup Daily Tracking survey suggest that nearly 4% of adults identify as LGBT, implying that there are an estimated 9.5 million LGBT adults in the US (Gates 2014). Like the NHIS data, the Gallup data also show that about 60% of LGBT identified adults are not part of a married or unmarried couple.² If the NHIS figures regarding relationship status and child-rearing are applied to the Gallup estimate, it would mean that more than a million LGBT adults who are not in a couple are raising approximately 2 million children.

These calculations suggest that the estimated number of adults in the US who are raising children under age 18 and are either in a married or unmarried same-sex couple or are LGB-identified and not in a couple is between 862,000 and 1.26 million. The estimates for the number of children being raised either by a same-sex couple or a non-coupled LGB parent are between 1.3 and 2.2 million.

In considering the total extent of parenting among LGB adults, it is important to consider that some LGB parents are raising children as part of a different-sex couple. This is particularly true for bisexual parents. Among bisexual adults with children, 51% were married with a different-sex spouse, 11% had a different-sex unmarried partner, and 4% had a same-sex spouse or partner. Among adults who identified as gay or lesbian and were raising children, 18% had a different-sex married spouse and 4% had a different-sex unmarried partner.

Among all LGB-identified adults, regardless of relationship status, NHIS analyses suggest that an estimated 23% were raising children under age 18 (20% among lesbians and gay men and 31% among bisexual men and women). Applying that figure to the NHIS and Gallup estimates of the size of the LGB and LGBT populations, respectively, implies that between 1.2 and 2.2 million LGBT adults in the US are raising from 2.0 to 3.7 million children.³

Discussion

The 2013 NHIS data provide a rare opportunity to consider relationship and family status along with sexual orientation identity within the framework of a population-based survey. Many of the findings in

these analyses are consistent with other research. These similarities include estimates of the number of same-sex couples, the proportion of those couples who are raising children, and demographic patterns with regard to age, race/ethnicity, inter-racial and ethnic coupling, and educational attainment.

Because of challenges associated with the measurement of same-sex couples in US Census Bureau data, estimates of the number of married same-sex couples in the US or their geographic distribution are difficult to obtain. Such estimates are further complicated by a legal landscape where the availability of marriage for same-sex couples across states is changing rapidly, as well as likely rapid changes in the number and location of married same-sex couples.

The NHIS data confirm that married same-sex couples live throughout the country, including in many states where their marriages may not be recognized. More than one in ten (12%) reported living in the South, where only Maryland and Washington, DC recognized their marriages.

The estimate of approximately 124,000 married same-sex couples (or the 130,000 estimate derived by using only data from the second half of 2013) offers evidence of substantial change in the last few years.

As of 2010, Badgett and Herman (2011) estimated that about 50,000 same-sex couples had married in the US. A survey conducted in that same year by the Williams Institute suggested that the total number of married same-sex couples in that year (including couples married outside of the US) may have been as high as 80,000. Even under an assumption using the conservative estimate of 124,000 marriages, these figures suggest that the population of married same-sex couples in the US has grown by more than 50% in only three years.

² Author analyses of Gallup Daily Tracking Survey data, Jan-Jun 2014.

³ Unfortunately, neither the NHIS nor Gallup data allow for a separate assessment of parenting among the transgender population.

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About the author

Gary J. Gates, PhD is the Williams Distinguished Scholar and a national expert in the demographic, geographic, and economic characteristics of the LGBT population.

About the Institute

The Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law and Public Policy at UCLA School of Law advances law and public policy through rigorous, independent research and scholarship, and disseminates its work through a variety of education programs and media to judges, legislators, lawyers, other policymakers and the public.

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JUNE 22, 2017

In U.S., 10.2% of LGBT Adults Now Married to Same-Sex Spouse

BY JEFFREY M. JONES



STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Percentage married to same-sex spouse up from 7.9% two years ago
- Sharp decline in same-sex domestic partnerships
- LGBT men more likely to be married than LGBT women

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Two years after the Supreme Court ruled in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that states could not prohibit same-sex marriages, 10.2% of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) adults in the U.S. are married to a same-sex spouse. That is up from

7.9% in the months prior to the Supreme Court decision in 2015, but only marginally higher than the 9.6% measured in the first year after the ruling.

Marital Status of LGBT Americans

	Pre-Obergefell decision	Year 1, Post-Obergefell decision	Year 2, Post-Obergefell decision
	%	%	%
Married to same-sex spouse	7.9	9.6	10.2
Living with same-sex partner	12.8	10.1	6.6
Single/Never married	47.4	49.9	55.7
Living with opposite-sex partner	4.8	5.0	4.2
Married to opposite-sex spouse	14.2	13.6	13.1
Divorced	7.1	6.4	5.4
Separated	2.5	2.2	2.1
Widowed	2.8	2.9	2.2
Sample size	4,752	11,588	12,832

Dates: Pre-Obergefell (Jan. 28-June 26, 2015); Year 1, Post-Obergefell (June 27, 2015-June 19, 2016); Year 2, Post-Obergefell (June 20, 2016-June 19, 2017)

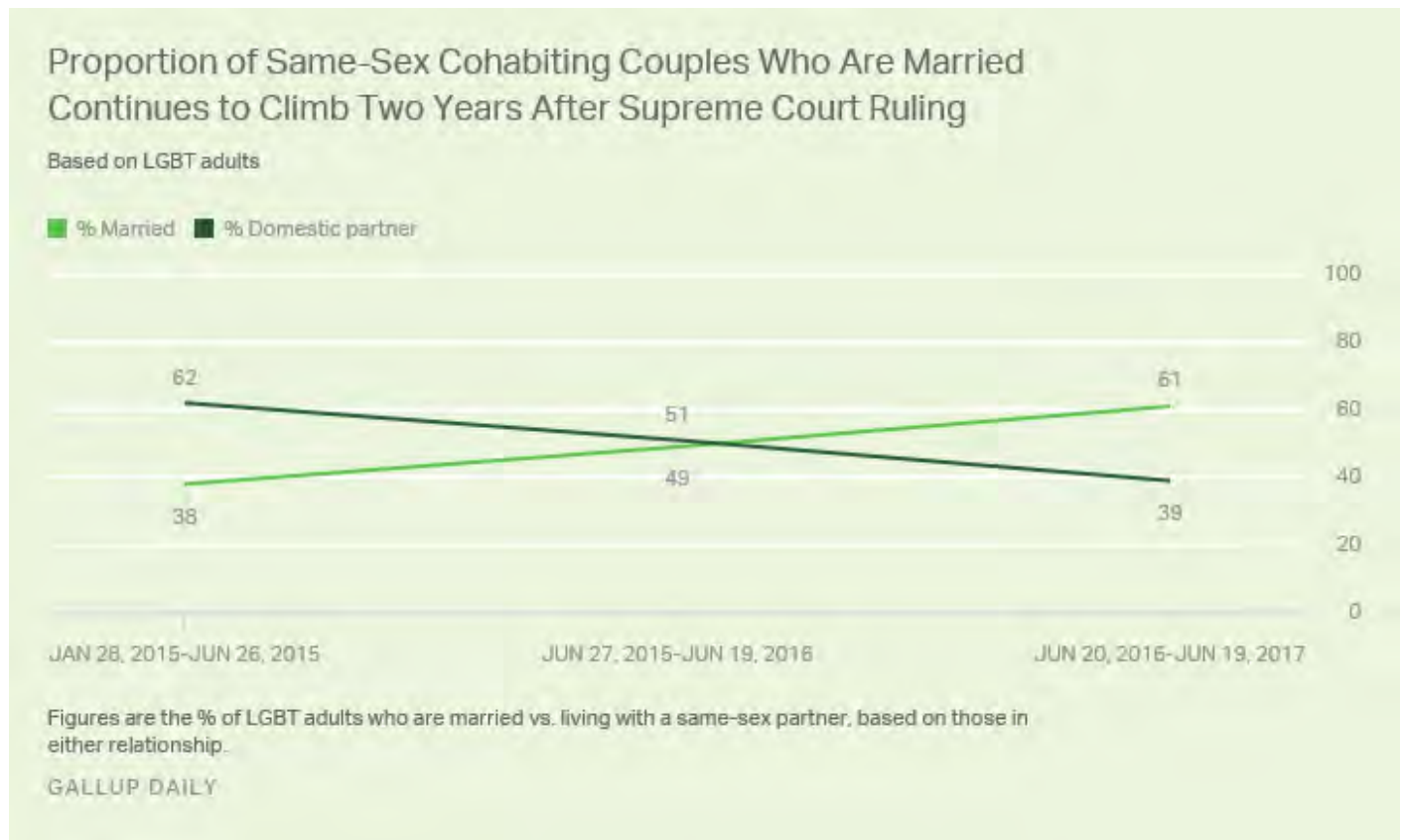
GALLUP DAILY

On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court issued the *Obergefell* decision. As would be expected, the number of same-sex marriages has increased, though the rate of increase has slowed.

As the percentage of LGBT adults in same-sex marriages has increased over the past two years, the percentage in same-sex domestic partnerships has fallen sharply from 12.8% before the Supreme Court ruling to 6.6%.

About half of the decline in same-sex domestic partnerships can be explained by the increase in same-sex marriages. The rest of the decline could mean that others formerly in same-sex domestic partnerships may have stopped living together, or no longer consider a same-sex cohabitant as a "partner."

As a result of these shifts, Gallup estimates that 61% of same-sex, cohabiting couples in the U.S. are now married, up from 38% before the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in June 2015, and 49% one year ago.



An increasing percentage of LGBT adults now identify their marital status as single or never married. That has always been the dominant status among LGBT individuals, but has increased from 47.4% to 55.7% over the last two years.

LGBT Americans are still more likely to be married to an opposite-sex spouse (13.1%) than a same-sex spouse (10.2%), but the gap is narrowing. According to prior research on LGBT identification, roughly half of those who self-identify as LGBT are bisexual,

helping explain the high proportion of LGBT individuals who are married to opposite-sex partners. Gallup's question does not probe specifically for whether LGBT individuals are lesbian or gay or bisexual or transgender.

The results are based on Gallup Daily tracking interviews since Jan. 28, 2015, when Gallup first asked lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) individuals who indicated they were married or living with a partner if their spouse or partner was the same sex or the opposite sex.

Overall, 4.3% of U.S. adults identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, according to Gallup's latest estimate from its June 2016-June 2017 tracking data. That is up from 3.9% a year ago and 3.4% in Gallup's initial estimate in 2012.

Same-Sex Marriage More Common Among Men, Older LGBT Adults

Currently, 11.4% of LGBT men versus 9.3% of LGBT women say they are married to a same-sex partner. Also, the marriage rate among older LGBT adults is higher than it is among younger adults.

Marital Status of LGBT Americans, by Gender and Age

	Men	Women	18-29 years old	30-49 years old	50+ years old
	%	%	%	%	%
Married to same-sex spouse	11.4	9.3	3.3	14.4	18.1
Living with same-sex partner	7.4	6.0	3.8	8.9	8.9
Single/Never married	56.6	55.0	77.2	42.4	32.3
Living with opposite-sex partner	3.0	5.2	5.5	4.1	1.8
Married to opposite-sex spouse	13.2	13.1	6.2	18.4	19.3
Divorced	4.6	6.1	2.1	7.1	9.8
Separated	1.4	2.7	1.3	3.2	2.3
Widowed	2.0	2.4	0.5	0.9	7.1
Sample size	6,789	6,043	4,340	3,641	4,777

June 20, 2016-June 19, 2017

GALLUP DAILY

Notably, even older LGBT adults are most likely to identify their marital status as single -- 32% say they have never married. This indicates that many LGBT adults, even at older ages when marriage may be more feasible or desirable than it is for younger adults, are remaining single. By comparison, 11.3% of non-LGBT adults age 50 and older have never married.

Implications

Same-sex marriages are becoming increasingly common, and same-sex domestic partnerships less common, for LGBT Americans. In the first year after the Supreme Court ruled states could not prohibit same-sex marriages, the percentage of LGBT Americans who were married grew nearly two percentage points. In the second year since the ruling, the growth has continued, but at a diminished rate. This suggests an initial burst in the number of same-sex marriages came in response to the legal changes. Now, with those legal changes further in the past, the growth in same-sex marriages may be slower.

However, growth in the rate of same-sex marriages is likely to continue. Younger adults, many who may not be in a position to marry regardless of their sexual identity, are disproportionately likely to identify as LGBT. As they age, their life situations may change and they may want to get married. Also, as future generations of LGBT adults come of age, having grown up in a time when there were no legal restrictions on same-sex marriage and greatly reduced societal norms against it, they may marry at higher rates than LGBT Americans in generations before them.

These data are available in [Gallup Analytics](#).

Editor's Note: A correction was made to the estimated proportions of LGBT adults in cohabiting same-sex couples who are married (from 67% to 61%) or living with a partner (from 33% to 39%).

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted June 20, 2016-June 19, 2017, on the Gallup U.S. Daily survey, with a random sample of 352,851 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. For results based on the total sample of national adults the margin of sampling error is ± 1 percentage point at the 95% confidence level

For results based on the total sample of 12,832 lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender adults, the margin of sampling error is ± 1 percentage point at the 95% confidence level. All reported margins of sampling error include computed design effects for weighting

Each sample of national adults includes a minimum quota of 70% cellphone respondents and 30% landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas by time zone within region. Landline and cellular telephone numbers are selected using random digit dial methods

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My Views on Gay Marriage

For posterity, below I've preserved the lengthy essay I composed years ago outlining my support for gay marriage. I'm happy to say that, thanks to the tireless efforts of countless, impassioned human rights activists and a narrow but decisive victory handed down by the Supreme Court, these words stand are now merely historical document about an ugly time in our national history.

Too long/don't feel like reading? I will cheerfully perform a wedding ceremony for any consenting adults, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. Read more or [hit me up](#) and I'll tell you all about how much your love matters!

I tend to overreact. Someone cuts me off in traffic. Do I give them a helpful gesture through the windshield? No. I'm plotting in my head the most expedient fashion by which to exterminate their entire bloodline from the

earth. McDonald's didn't give me a hash brown with my Egg McMuffin. Do I pull back around and wait in the drive-through? No. I drive my car through the front of the store, up to the front counter and demand service. The electric company reads my meter wrong and is threatening to send me to collections if I don't pay the extra \$25 on my last bill. Do I call customer service? No. I refuse to pay – in fact, I create an elaborate plan to have all of my cash and belongings brought to my home in the event of my death and have it all torched so that, not even when I die, can they collect the \$25 from the smoldering remains of my estate. So, actually, to say I overreact would be an understatement.

That's why I was so proud of myself for my near saint-like behavior a few years ago during a visit to my local apothecary. It was just after that year's election, and I was listening to a piece on NPR on the passage of Proposition 8, the ban on gay marriage in California. It put me in a foul mood. As I pulled into the parking lot and began looking for a place to park, what did mine eyes behold? A beautiful, gleaming Lexus quite unceremoniously double-parked right in front of the store entrance.

I parked my car, got out and examined the offending vehicle. You might have expected me to drag a key across the driver's door, or shoot out the tires, or concoct a diabolical scheme whereby an international courier towed the car to a barge and shipped it to Siberia, but I did none of these. I looked at the car, and I came to a truly profound realization. A calm came over me. I shopped and departed.

The prevalence of homosexuality behavior across the heterosexual-homosexual continuum is debatable, as is the number of men and women who identify themselves as having an exclusively homosexual orientation: Recent studies indicate a range between 2-7 percent of the population. Even using the conservative estimate on a planet of six billion souls, this represents 120 million people in the world, and approximately six million in the United States alone. This is a remarkably large minority having their fates decided by an often unsympathetic majority.

Traditional conservative (and in the West, predominantly Christian) ideology dictates that homosexuality is an affront to God and a sin; that it's a choice, and that gay people just aren't "putting their shoulder into it" when it comes to being straight; and that allowing gay couples to marry waters down the sanctity of the institution of marriage, thus invalidating "real" marriages between one man and one woman.

Meanwhile, the traditional liberal viewpoint emphasizes that if God created humanity, He placed homosexuality in it as part of the world and the natural order to which it adheres; that homosexuality exists in a natural, predetermined (and some would even argue, genetic) imperative in each

person; and that, as human beings, homosexuals ought to be afforded the same societal rights and privileges as anyone else, free of prejudice.

As one might guess, I wholeheartedly embrace the liberal viewpoint on homosexuality, and by extension, gay marriage. I believe that homosexuality, while not the norm, is still natural. I believe that gays have about as much ability to “decide” to be straight as I have to “decide” to be gay. And more than anything, I believe that we as a nation and as a species, decades or maybe centuries from now, will look back on our predecessors with the same awestruck shame as we do those who championed slavery. Some people believe God hates gays. I believe God hates hate.

Why is there so much intolerance and hate for the gay community? Why are there people who seek to codify bigotry (the Federal Marriage Amendment) into the highest law of our land? The question can be answered with one word: Ignorance. There are many in this country whose lives don’t extend beyond the boundaries of their small towns. They are fed false information through media and entertainment and accept it as truth. They believe what the Rush Limbaughs, Bill O’Riellys and Billy Grahams of the world tell them: That homosexuality is a scourge, that they seek to undermine your marriage, recruit your children and usher in some age of decadence for which we’ll all end up going to hell.

Liberal politics, and by extension, support for gay marriage thrives in large cities and college towns. Why? It’s because education and experience are the enemies of bigotry. College campuses are regarded as hotbeds for liberals. Seattle, Baltimore, San Francisco, New Haven – these metropolitan areas are notorious liberal strongholds, and ones where you’re much more likely to work, live next door to, or share your favorite watering hole with a gay person.

The resident of rural or small town America fears what he does not know or understand (gays). Meanwhile, residents of big cities (who can see and understand the gay community, and even know and are friends with gay people) have no fear, and therefore, no such bigotry exists.

The whole scenario reminds me of the short story, “Guests of the Nation,” by Frank O’Connor. In the story, which takes place during the Irish War of Independence, two Irish Republican Army soldiers get to know and befriend two English prisoners in their care. Later, when ordered to execute the prisoners, their hearts and minds rebel. Why? Because, knowing their enemies – their hopes, fears, triumphs and tribulations, and discovering that they are, if nothing else, more alike than different – made it impossible to demonize them.

So, how do we solve this nationwide dilemma? We take a barometer of anti-gay sentiment in the nation, find the most egregious offenders and create something akin to a foreign exchange student program. The main difference: Instead of students, they're gay men and women. They pack their bags, bid their lives farewell for a year or so and shack up with a virulently anti-homosexual family. But, in this exercise, the foreign visitor would not be the student – they would be the teacher. After a year of getting to know this gay person and being forced to put a human face on someone they would have otherwise merely labeled, maybe they would change. (This is a satirical suggestion, of course, but tell me it wouldn't work.)

Let's return to the parking lot at Walgreens for a moment. As I looked at that gorgeous car, parked so arrogantly and seemingly without regard for anyone else, a thought occurred to me: I don't know the person who this car belongs to. I know nothing about them. Perhaps it was just another obtuse, suit and tie-wearing, Lexus-driving, six figure-earning piece of alpha-male flotsam with no regard for the yellow lines that separates us from animals.

Or, perhaps it wasn't. Maybe it was a woman. Maybe she just finished up a year-long stint watching her five-year-old son die of some sort of rare cancer. And maybe she just came back from the funeral home after picking out his little casket. And maybe she had to stop at Walgreens to pick up her valium, in the hopes that something might offer her a moment's respite from the horrifying, soul-annihilating pain she's feeling, and couldn't see the yellow lines of the parking spaces through her tears.

Maybe that's who that Lexus belonged to. She doesn't deserve to have her car keyed. So I didn't do it.

I'm going to take a guess that most gay people in California voted against Proposition 8 – that is to say, they were in favor of gay marriage. And I'm going to guess that most people in California who could put a human face on the gay community because of a friend, loved one, coworker, or anyone else they're close to voted against it as well. And finally, I'm going to guess those that voted for it – who are against gay marriage – have had little or no meaningful contact with a gay person in their lives.

It's that last group of people – they're the ones keying the car. They don't even know the people they're victimizing and marginalizing. They just see the Lexus parked across two spaces, make an assumption and drag their key across. Would they have done it if they had known? If they could hear the stories and see the love between the people they were denying this privilege – would they still pull out their keys? If every person in this world had a son, daughter, brother, sister, mother, father or beloved friend that was gay – would they still do as they had done? I hope the answer is no – and I further hope that one day my hope becomes a certainty.

I know I've made a lot of broad generalizations here. There are conservatives who support gay marriage and liberals who take the staunch position that homosexuality is a grave sin. Some people are flat-out homophobic fascists, some people embrace every aspect of homosexuality and some people lie in between. The way I see the world is not necessarily the way things actually are in the world. But the way I first saw that Lexus is not necessarily the way things are, either.

All that being said ... while the United States Supreme Court did strike down California's ban on gay marriage as unconstitutional, the fight for marriage equality in Ohio is still a work in progress. But while that fight continues, I offer up the following suggestion to gay couples who long for the right to marry: **Pay the state no mind.**

A marriage has nothing to do with laws, ballot measures, voters, judges or churches. It has nothing to do with papers filed in the dusty basements of courthouses, tax breaks or, paradoxically, even the wedding ceremony that's its genesis. It has everything to do with the vows that two people make to one another.

A marriage, no matter who approves of it, sanctions it or recognizes it, is merely a pair of mutual promises. No law prohibits it, and even the ugliest of bigotry can never negate it. No law, government or a single individual can stand in the way of two people from committing their love and their lives to each other.

Don't put your dreams on the back burner while you wait for the rest of the world to catch up. The day will come when you'll be married on paper – get married in real life whenever you want.



What are you waiting for?

[CONTACT](#)

TIM'S CREDENTIALS

I am an ordained ULC minister and am authorized and licensed by the

App. 227

State of Ohio to solemnize marriages.

Certificate of Authority to Solemnize Marriages (Ohio)

Certificate of Authority to Solemnize Marriages (West Virginia)

Credentials of Ministry (issued by ULC)

Letter of Good Standing (issued by ULC)

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Your family is welling up with pride. Your friends are tearfully happy for you (or are wishing they were you.) The two of you are euphoric, on cloud nine, bubbling up with joy! Nothing else matters. The ceremony is so wonderful, there'll be celebration 'til the sun comes up!

Imagine having a ceremony that is so beautiful and memorable **it is everything you hope for, and more.** The desires of your heart are fulfilled and you are as happy as you could possibly be.



With A Wedding To Cherish Your Ceremony Will:

- Capture the Spirit of the Two of You
- Include Elements That Are Meaningful To You
- Celebrate Your Love And Affirm How Good You Are Together
- Blend Unique, Distinct, Diverse Backgrounds Into A Beautiful Cohesive Whole
- Stress Less and Enjoy Your Ceremony More
- Start Your Wedding on a High Note

I am Susanna Goulder. I perform personal, loving wedding ceremonies so you have a ceremony you cherish forever. I serve local and out-of-town couples in the Cleveland, Akron, Canton and Northeast Ohio vicinity or will travel to the location of your choice. I am an ordained Interspiritual-Interfaith minister. I've performed hundreds of ceremonies. I love performing wedding ceremonies.

Schedule your complimentary meeting and let's talk about how you can have a wedding you will cherish.



“Susanna made our wedding day one to remember!!!! I could not have imagined a better ceremony.”

Mr. & Mrs. Justin & Jenna Gray

“It was a true reflection of who we were, and it was completely romantic and just perfect.”

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin & Crystal Gardner

“We’ve had so many compliments from people saying they’ve never witnessed a more beautiful ceremony. We will cherish this day forever.”

Mr. & Mrs. Ed & Kathy Berlin

“I remember thinking, ‘this is how I imagined my perfect wedding!’”

Mrs. Denise Benzimra



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Weddings



Your Ceremony – Personal & Loving

Your ceremony is the heart and soul of your wedding day. Your wedding ceremony will reflect who you are and celebrate your love for one another.

It will be touching to behold, and a wonderful memory for all.

Whether you are secular, religious, spiritual, nondenominational, interfaith or multicultural, I will listen to your stories, memories, beliefs, hopes, and intentions. And in a relaxed, fun collaborative process, we will discover the words, readings, rituals, and symbols that resonate with you.

...will be entirely your own

- Traditional or Unique
- Religious, Spiritual, Civil, or Humanist
- Simple and sweet or as romantic and personal as you desire.



...will reflect who you are



Buddhist, Catholic, Celtic, Christian,

Civil, Earth-Based, Eastern Orthodox, Greek Orthodox,

Hindu, Humanist, Muslim, Jewish,

Same-Sex, Shinto, Taoist

...and will celebrate your love

Your ceremony will be conducted with professionalism and grace. Memories will be created that everyone present will cherish and talk about for years to come! No two ceremonies are ever the same. Your ceremony will be like no other. It will be yours.

Let's get started on creating memories which everyone will talk about for years to come!



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many references available
upon request



BEST Wedding
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Officiant - Minister - Pastor - Priestess

"Rev Angelle's sincere enthusiasm and effervescent personality make her by far the best wedding Officiant. Her ceremony writing and performance are simply outstanding!"

[\(click here to read more reviews. Many references available upon request\)](#)

Congratulations on your wedding plans! Now you need a licensed minister/officiant/pastor/celebrant to personalize and perform your wedding ceremony. But you do not have a "home church", and therefore no family pastor to marry you?

* Perhaps you and your Mate are from different faith backgrounds and wish to incorporate elements from both traditions on your Special Day. Or maybe you do not practice any religion at all, but still require a justice of the peace to solemnize your marriage.

* If you are searching for a licensed, non-denominational female officiant in the State of Ohio, you may be having a tough time finding someone you can relate to. Worry not! You just found Rev Angelle! (pronounced Ann-gel)

* Rev Angelle specializes in custom-designing wedding ceremonies to suit your needs, tastes and Faith, and is willing to travel to you for your ceremony.

* Local to Cleveland, Ohio, Rev Angelle is willing to travel anywhere in the world. **Arrangements for fees are negotiable(See FAQ below);** wedding ceremonies and wedding vows are customized to suit **your** personal preferences.

* Civil ceremonies, secular (non-religious) ceremonies, or ceremonies with religious traditions, an old-fashioned handfasting ceremony to "tie the knot", or elopement with a Justice of the Peace, your personal choices are respected as your wedding ceremony is planned out, step by step.

* Rev Angelle's wedding ceremonies are original, unique and very highly regarded for their elegant, artistic flavor and enthusiastic personalized styling.

* Want to write your own wedding vows? Rev Angelle can help you perfect them so they are everything you want them to be. Have you always dreamed of having a Renaissance or "theme wedding"? Together we can design any "masquerade" you might desire.

* Counseling for couples, individuals, and families available by request!

"My goal is to create your ceremony so that the language of it speaks to your heart, and to help the first day of your marriage be filled with all you've ever wanted it to be."

Inter-faith, non-denominational, agnostic, atheistic, and couples of all faiths and traditions are welcome.

[for frequently asked questions and rates / fees click here](#)

[Click here to see my getting-to-know-you wedding questionnaire](#)





Video of Rev Angelle reciting an original non-denominational wedding prayer

Video of Rev Angelle concluding a wedding ceremony, "You May Kiss the Bride!" :)

A personal note to my clients:

It's been a tough year for me. My own husband recently passed away. Staying connected to my Ministry work has brought me a great deal of healing, Peace and strength from each family that looks to me for guidance. Sharing in your happiness reminds me that there can still be happiness in the future for me too.

Very much thanks to all of you who have helped me survive these incredibly trying times.

Much Love,

Rev Angelle

Rev Angelle has 17+ years of experience designing and performing weddings of many styles and traditions, as well as counseling families and individuals. If your needs or traditions are not listed below, she will be very glad to do any research needed to create the perfect wedding ceremony for you and your Mate.

Rent-A-Rev for unique original wedding ceremonies - officiant - custom wedding vows - write your wedding vows - religious wedding ceremonies - spiritual wedding ceremony - secular or non-religious ceremonies - multi-faith marriages - non-denominational officiant - nondenominational wedding ceremony - Confidential Weddings - generic weddings - formal wedding ceremonies - casual weddings - beach weddings - wedding gazebo - wedding at a party center - short ceremony - theme weddings - Renaissance Weddings - handfastings - Celtic Traditions - gothic ceremony - Halloween Weddings - costumes - old-world hand fasting - old world customs - modern weddings - modern unique ceremonies - Native American Traditions - Earth-based religions - Cultural Traditions - your cultural heritage - Christian ceremonies - Jewish wedding ceremonies - Hindu Weddings - Russian Weddings - Greek Ceremonies - Eastern Orthodox ceremonies - Military Couples - elopements - Justice of the Peace - Baptisms - Funerals - Eulogies - Memorial Services - Blessings - Christenings - baby naming ceremonies - Quinceanera - 15th birthday - Coming of Age - renew your wedding vows - re-marriages - commitment ceremonies - civil ceremony - gay weddings - same sex wedding - wedding locations - outdoor ceremonies and receptions - inexpensive weddings - elegant weddings - extravagant weddings - underwater weddings - parachuting weddings - humorous, comical ceremonies - biker weddings - out-of-state couples getting married in Ohio - Destination Weddings and much more

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Read Our Reviews

from past clients

14 reviews

4.6/5.0

The ceremony was very interesting but very nice. She worked with us and made it memorable

5.0/5.0

We Love Rev. Angelle !! She is caring and conscious about her line of work. Her positivity brightened our day. She is One of a... read full review

5.0/5.0

Angelle was incredible. We wanted something so

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far from traditional and conventional and she never batted an eye. Even when my husband... read full review

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Rev Angelle serves a small, multi-faith parish in NE Ohio, and is legally licensed through the Universal Ministries. Rev Angelle is available to officiate and solemnize marriages anywhere in Ohio and many other States. (Photocopy of credentials and/or references available upon request.) She is also available to perform blessings, and baptisms for you or your children, dedication ceremonies, baby naming ceremonies or Christenings, Wiccanings, funerals, eulogies and memorial services and spiritual counseling.

Interested persons should e-mail RevAngelle@RoadRunner.com for more information, or call (216)400-1749 (440)290-9895 Serving all of Northeast Ohio.

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Frequently Asked Wedding Questions

deposits - fees - methods of payment, credit cards - travel - elopements - wedding location ideas - verify my credentials - Clergy attire - microphone - wedding dress - decorated wedding arch - theme weddings - marriage license information - renewal of vows - original ceremonies - out of state couples - ceremony music - no counseling or classes required - face-to-face planning sessions - military couples - on-going spiritual support - no church membership required - baptisms and Christenings - funerals, eulogies and memorial services - commitment ceremonies / same sex marriage - gay weddings

Q: How much will you charge to perform our wedding?

A: Arrangements with me are based on the location and details of your wedding, and I'm happy to work with your budget concerns. (I don't want to turn anyone away!) I'd be glad to discuss these details with you at your free, in-person wedding consultation, and I have many references can give you upon request. (click here to read wedding client reviews)

Q: Do you require a deposit to book our wedding?

A: A deposits will secure wedding date with me. You may put down a deposit when you make arrangements for me to perform your wedding, and then pay the balance the day of your wedding, or in installments, so to break up the cost into more than one payment. I can also accept credit cards via Paypal or Square.

Down payments also serve as a reminder to you, should your plans change before the date arrives, you'll remember to tell me!!! :) I have to turn many couples away who request a date once it has been booked, and you'd be surprised how easy it is to forget to tell me plans got postponed or cancelled. Deposits and installments are also an excellent way to survive the Winter months when there are fewer marriages to perform, but when many couples begin to plan their weddings for the following year.

If you wish for me to offer the Eucharist or Communion at your ceremony, purchase supplies to assist with decorating, or some other special request that requires me to make purchases for your ceremony, this will also require a deposit to cover the costs of the wine and the wafers, or other requested supplies.

I am always happy to bring things I already own to help enhance your ceremony location, such as an altar with flowers and/or wedding candles, seasonal garlands, wreaths, et al. I can also custom-design an altar arrangement for you that can remain intact throughout your reception that will compliment the color scheme of your entire wedding.

Please read the following paragraphs regarding donations, and we can discuss the arrangement that will best suit your preferences and circumstances.

Q: What type or methods of payments do you accept? Do you take credit cards?

A: I can accept cash, checks, money orders, and credit cards and electronic transactions through PayPal or Square. Under certain circumstances I am also willing barter for services with appropriate arrangements made ahead of time.

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(please specify date and location of wedding)

Q: How far will you travel to perform our wedding?

A: Turns out I have developed quite a good reputation for my ceremonies in the State of Ohio, and I get requests to travel all over Ohio to perform weddings. I am also willing to travel long distances for out-of-state or destination weddings. I am based in Lake County Ohio.

Long journeys are more expensive than shorter trips, but if the travel time fits into my schedule, and the extra expense fits into your budget, then it is possible to make arrangements to perform your out-of-town wedding ceremony.

Q: Do you have a church, wedding chapel or other location where we can get married?

A: Yes!!!! I am able to perform weddings just about anywhere. If you desire an elopement or a Justice-of-the-Peace ceremony, I can marry you at a location of your choice, in front of my fireplace, or at the park/beach around the corner from here.

Q: Do you know of other locations where we can get married?

A: The list of wedding ceremony and wedding reception ideas in Northeast Ohio is very long! We should talk! Here are a few examples:



Who wouldn't want to get married in a castle! Willoughby Hills, Ohio offers the beautiful Squire's Castle for both wedding ceremonies and wedding receptions. While there is no charge to use Squire's Castle for your outdoor wedding ceremony location, it is a very popular choice with Ohio brides. You should contact the Parks and Recreation Dept to obtain your 2 hour permit so your day and time are guaranteed, and no one can boot you before your wedding is over. Visit <https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/about/cleveland-metroparks-organization/policies-procedures/permits/wedding-ceremonies-permit> for more information and to get your permit.



This lovely gazebo at Overlook Park in Mentor on the Lake, Ohio overlooks the water and a lovely park, and is an ideal location for do-it-yourself wedding ceremonies and wedding receptions. Your wedding help is welcome to bring all the decorations and refreshments you care to offer. Room inside to fit chairs and wedding guests for 50-75 people. No rental fee, only reservations needed!!! Contact me for more info RevAngelle@roadrunner.com



Holden Arboretum in Mentor, Ohio has both indoor and outdoor locations to rent for your wedding ceremony and reception. This is the view from one of their indoor rooms. [Holden Arboretum](#)



Mapleside Farms in Brunswick, Ohio is a wonderful place to book your wedding ceremony and reception. Their 100 acre location has beautiful views, rooms for hundreds of guests, full catering for your reception, and an attentive staff that really cares to make your wedding day as perfect as possible. Their rates are a fabulous value! [Mapleside Farms](#)



La Malfa Party Center in Mentor, Ohio is a wonderful place to book your wedding ceremony and reception. The offer room for 1,500 guests, full catering for your reception, and an experienced staff that caters great attention to detail. [La Malfa](#)

The Patrician Party Center in Eastlake, Ohio is a wonderful place to book your wedding ceremony and reception. The offer room for 900 guests, full catering for your reception, and



an experienced staff that caters great attention to detail. [Patrician](#)



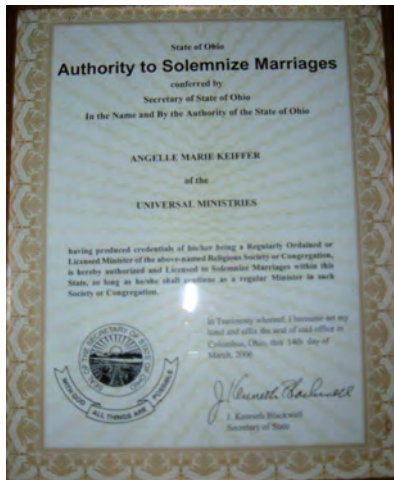
Wildwood Cultural Center in Mentor, Ohio is a wonderful place to book your wedding ceremony and reception. Their has beautiful garden views, room for up to 150 guests, full kitchen for your DIY reception or caterer, great rates, and an atmosphere to die for. [Wildwood Cultural Center](#)



La Vera Party Center in Willoughby, Ohio is a wonderful place to book your wedding ceremony and reception. Their rooms accommodate 350 guests each, full catering for your reception, and a great staff.

Q: How do we know you have a legal minister's license and can sign our marriage certificate?

I am happy to provide a copy of my credentials to you upon request. I am legally ordained through the [Universal Ministries](#), and am licensed to solemnize marriages from the Secretary of State in Ohio. You are also welcome to compare them with the minister's database which is kept by our government and gives you the opportunity to verify the credentials of any ordained minister who is legally licensed to solemnize marriages. [Click here to check my credentials on the Secretary of the State of Ohio's website.](#)



Q: What will you wear when you perform our wedding ceremony?

A: I have a variety of "looks" you can select from that will compliment the style and theme of your wedding. (some pictures at the [top of this page](#)) We can discuss this at your consultation. Costuming by request.

Q: Do you perform theme weddings?

A: Renaissance weddings, Halloween weddings, Christmas weddings, beach weddings, Celtic weddings, Scottish weddings, military weddings, etc. We can design almost any theme you might desire for your ceremony. Our property is always elaborately decorated for Halloween during the entire month of October, as well as the month of December for Christmas.

Q: We Love the idea of having you design our wedding vows and perform our ceremony. Are there other ways in which you can help us plan our wedding?

A: Whether you just need a Minister to Officiate at your wedding, if you need a little help with the last few details of planning your wedding and reception, or if you need assistance with EVERYTHING, I am very happy to help.

Q: Can you help us decorate our wedding arch?

A: I would be happy to help you design and decorate your own wedding arch that can be used for your ceremony, and can remain in place throughout your reception. You can pick up the arch and lights in a box at most craft supply stores

for under \$30. I can advise you on what to purchase to dress it up, or we can assign me a shopping list as part of my service for your wedding.

Q: How do we go about getting a marriage license?

A: This varies from state to state. In Ohio, both the Bride and Groom need to apply for the marriage license together at the Clerk of Courts in the county in which you reside, unless you are from out-of-state, in which case you will apply for your marriage license in the county in which you will get married. [Click here to apply for your County Marriage License Online!](#) Typically this license must be signed by a licensed officiant within 90 days of obtaining it or it will expire. You will both need to go together, and will both need your drivers license or State issued picture ID. If either of you have been married in the past, you will need to bring proof that the marriage has legally ended by divorce or death. If between the ages of 18 and 21, you'll also need a copy of your birth certificate. If between the ages of 16 and 18, parental consent is required.

In Ohio there is no waiting period to receive your marriage license, and no blood tests are required. Average cost of a marriage license runs between \$45, though some counties charge more. For more information regarding marriage licenses in Ohio, [click here](#). For a list of phone numbers and addresses for Ohio county clerk of courts, [click here](#). [For all other states, click here.](#)

For couples who wish to solemnize their vows, but who do not wish to apply for a State-issued marriage license, I am happy to provide you with a lovely Certificate of Marriage that allows you to record and display the date you took your vows on a decorative document.

Q: Do you perform re-marriage, anniversary, or renewal of vows ceremonies?

A: Yes, I do perform renewal of marriage ceremonies. I would be very happy to design your "second wedding" and help you to renew your wedding vows so that it exceeds your expectations.

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(please specify date and location of wedding)

Q: We already had a legal Justice-of-the-Peace service, but now we wish to have a formal wedding ceremony and reception we can share with our family and friends. Would you perform the ceremony for us, even though we are already legally married?

A: Yes, I would love to solemnize your Union with the eyes of Loved Ones before you. No reason to skip the traditions and rituals with Family just because you had reasons to expedite the legal portion of your marriage! :)

Q: We would like to have a marriage ceremony, but do not care to obtain a marriage license. Will you bless or solemnize our wedding without a legal, state-issued document?

A: Yes, I will gladly allow you to say your vows with each other without a state-issued license. I understand there are some who wish to ask for God and Family to be part of their marriage, but not the government. If at some point in the future you choose to obtain a marriage license, I would be happy to sign it for you at that point in time as well.

Q: We do not live in Ohio, but we've heard of your unique, original wedding ceremonies. Can you design a ceremony for our Officiant to use, or can we purchase an original ceremony from you? Do you perform destination weddings?

A: If you are getting married outside of Ohio, but wish to inquire about obtaining an [original ceremony](#) with original vows for your own wedding, [please click here](#). I am also willing to travel the entire globe to perform weddings. Name your wedding location, world-wide, and I'll inquire as to legal requirements for performing the ceremony. I'll follow you anywhere in the United States and Internationally to make your destination wedding perfect.

Q: We live in another state, but are getting married in Ohio to be with our family for our wedding. Can you help us plan our wedding ceremony via long-distance?

A: I would be delighted to help you with your Ohio wedding ceremony while you reside out-of-state. Many people choose to get married in the hometown of their parents or other relatives to make it easier for family to attend. We can work on the details of your ceremony through email and telephone conversations. If there is opportunity to fit in a meeting before the wedding, I am happy to meet with you. But I have performed weddings for many out-of-town couples who need this extra leeway, and I find it is just as easy to provide excellent service to you in this manner as in any other.

You will need to apply for your Ohio marriage license together, in person, in the county you will be married in, once you are in Ohio. But there is no waiting period once you apply, so you can obtain your license on any business day, during business hours, as close as the morning you will get married, if you can find the time. Most folks tend to arrive in town a

few days before their wedding, so I suggest getting your marriage license as soon as possible so that detail on your list is tended to. ([click here to read more about marriage licenses](#))

Q: Can you help us with our ceremony music?

A: Absolutely yes! Most couples tend to select either live musicians to perform their ceremony music (violinists, bagpipes, guitarists, organists, harpists, etc.), or prerecorded ceremony music. I can help you select from the best choices available in professional musicians, and/or I can provide you with hand-selected pre-recorded music and player for your wedding. Whether you prefer to walk down the aisle to traditional bagpipes, live guitar music, traditional classical wedding marches, or something more contemporary, I can help you arrange the perfect music for your wedding ceremony.

Q: Do you require we take Pre Marital Counseling/Classes?

A: No counseling or classes are required, unless requested by the couple. Relationship dynamics is an area of specialty of mine, so I am very happy to offer counseling services for individuals, couples and families. \$50 per session; 90 minute minimum per counseling session.



Q: My fiancé is in the military. Do you offer any discounts to people who are on leave from active duty?

A: While I do not offer any specific "discounts" to active duty personnel, I do offer the same negotiable arrangements to everyone who requests my services. ([click here to read about it](#)) I perform many wedding ceremonies for military brides and military grooms, and am very happy to offer an American Flag that can stand alone in any location and extends up to 8 feet to be part of your wedding ceremony, if you'd like. I can also help you rehearse your Arch of Swords for your ceremony exit.

It is common to find good deal and special courtesies from hotels and such for folks who are serving in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, etc. Deals are often available for folks who are on leave from active combat duties.

Planning sessions: I like to get together with a couple for a face-to-face meeting for an initial interview in which we ask each other questions and get a feel for the task at hand. This allows us to get better acquainted and helps me better design the wedding vows and wedding ceremony. My schedule is most flexible if you are able to meet here, at my home in Mentor on the Lake, and I'm happy to put a pot of tea or coffee on most any time. Additional meetings are arranged if requested by the couple, and there is no limit to how many times I will meet with you.

There are some instances in which the couple cannot make a face-to-face meeting, such as those who live out of town who are coming to this area only to be married near their family, or Brides and Grooms that are in the Military. For these and similar instances, we can easily make all of the arrangements needed with email and telephone conversations, and perhaps we can fit in a meeting closer to your Wedding Day.

On-going support: I am also available by telephone, email and in person should I be needed for emotional support as your wedding plans unfold. I can offer assistance to help ease the stress and tension that people often experience as they plan and prepare for such a momentous occasion. When called upon, I can be a neutral, objective party to whom a Bride or Groom can turn for support, advice, venting etc. as the Wedding Day approaches. You may not have had the benefit of a home church and clergy you feel you can speak with about your relationship and marriage before, but you do now, if you need me.

I am also gladly available should a couple request my services after they are married, for Fellowship, baptism and dedication ceremonies for their children, or as Spiritual Clergy.

Q: Do you require us to be members of a church?

A: No, I do not. Since I am not affiliated with any specific denomination, I am able to perform weddings for people of any faith, or those that do not practice any religion at all, though I especially enjoy customizing your wedding ceremony so it includes any religious or spiritual aspects you desire it to contain. Many folks who do not actively practice religion wish to incorporate features from their family's cultural or religious background when they get married. Some couples prefer not to have any spiritual elements in their ceremony at all.

Should you be seeking spiritual fellowship in your life, you are always welcome to attend the fellowship services that we have here at Universal Ministry. Our fellowship is best described as non-denominational, multi-faith fellowship that

Wedding Officiant - Rev. Angelle - Non-Denominational Ofc. Wedding Minister/Pastor - Cleveland, Metro OH. Pastor, Clergy - Coun...

draws on the best of many wonderful religions and has a strong affinity for Earth-based or Nature based Spirituality.

[Click here to email](#)

or call (216)400-1749 (440)290-9895 Serving all of Northeast Ohio and Destinations of Your Choice!
(please specify date and location of wedding)

Q: Do you require us to be baptized?

A: No, I do not require it. However, if you wish to be baptized or have a religious dedication ceremony of some sort, I am legally licensed to perform baptisms and Christenings or naming ceremonies for you or your children and I will be happy to baptize you, or to baptize your children. [Click here if you wish more information on becoming baptized.](#) I am also available for Wiccaning ceremonies, dedication ceremonies, funeral services or eulogies, and Blessings for your home or property.

Q: Do you perform funerals, Eulogies or memorial services?

A: Yes, I do. If you have lost a loved one and require clergy to honor their memory at a funeral or memorial service, I am available for these services. [Click here to email](#) or call (216)400-1749 (440)290-9895 Serving all of Northeast Ohio

Q: Do you perform same sex or commitment ceremonies (gay weddings, gay marriage - affirmation of love, Gay, Lesbian, Trans-gendered, GLBT, Civil Unions)?

A: Yes, I do. The State of Ohio (and the entire USA) will now issue a marriage licenses to same-sex couples. For those of you reading this paragraph who object to this practice, please consider the following: any person who approaches me and asks, "Will you please serve us, as a representative of God, so we may ask God to bless our love and our Union? We love each other so very much, and wish to present ourselves before God, and ask that S/he be part of our marriage from the beginning." As a person of Faith, how could I deny such a request? I consider it an honor.

In my opinion, one of God's most important lessons for humankind is the lesson of learning to Love. A couple who is taking that path is life IS abiding by God's wishes, as far as I can tell.

In April 2005 I had the honor of performing one of the first Ohio weddings in which two women were able to obtain a legal marriage license due to the fact that one of them was originally born a man.

[Click here to email](#)

or call (216)400-1749(440)290-9895 Serving all of Northeast Ohio
(please specify date and location of wedding)

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[Click here to find out how ...](#)

[Click here to email](#)

or call (216)400-1749 or (440)290-9895 Proudly serving all of Northeast Ohio
(please specify date and location of wedding)

This site (c) 1999-2017 Reverend Angelle Keiffer
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[Click here to email Rev Angelle](#)



[click here to go back to top](#)

The following are terms that either describe the services offered by this wedding minister, or areas this wedding minister serves: Mentor, Willoughby, Eastlake, Wickliffe, Beachwood, Pepper Pike, Euclid, South Euclid, Cleveland Heights, University Heights, Chardon, Munson, Geneva, Geneva on the Lake, Madison, Perry, Thompson, Gates Mills, Lyndhurst, Shaker Heights, Lakewood, Bay Village, Westlake, Strongsville, North Royalton, Bedford, Mayfield Village, Mentor on the Lake, Kirtland, Kirtland Hills, Willowick, Ashtabula, Sandusky, Norwalk, Avon, Vermillion, Ohio Official, marriage officiant, Minister, Clergy, Ohio officiant, officiators, Officiator, local wedding officiant, local wedding, local officiant, serving these cities in County: efficient, Local Wedding, minister, Minister, celebrant, Celebrant, clergy, Ohio, wedding chapel, Weddings Chapel, chapel, Chapel, wedding vows, Wedding Vows, officiant, officiate, Officiate, your wedding vows, our wedding vows, officiant, officiate, officiant, officiate, officiators, licensed to solemnize marriages, Marriage Officiant, solemnize, solimize, solemnize marrages, solemnize marrages, Ohio, multi-faith clergy, Multi-Faith Clergy, Inter-Faith marriages, nondenominational wedding ceremony, unique wedding ideas, elope Ohio wedding, Wedding marriage ministers and civil officiators are known by many names: minister, officiant, official, pastor, officiate, officiator, wedding officiant, wedding minister, wedding official, wedding pastor, marriage officiant, marriage minister, ceremony officiant, non-religious officiant, ceremony minister, marriage official, wedding clergy, rabbi, priest, civil officiant, Minister, Ministers, Wedding Officiant, Wedding Officiants, Marriage Officiant, Wedding Ceremony, Marriage Ceremonies, Wedding Service, Wedding Services, Wedding, Weddings, Clergy, Clergymen, Clergyman, clergy woman, wedding lady, <http://lovelaughterelegance.wordpress.com/2007/12/07/lori-doug-a-gorgeous-wedding-in-august/>, wiccan clergy, Wiccan Clergy, wiccan handfasting, pagan handfasting, beach wedding, gazebo, outdoor, outside, Outside, weddings by the water, indoor wedding, custom wedding ceremonies, custom wedding vows, Halloween wedding vows, civil ceremony, elope, elopement, Elope, Elopement, Elopements, elope in Ohio, elopment, elopments, ceremony music, wedding music, <http://www.newsandsentinel.com/page/content.detail/id/510912.html?nav=5065> bagpipes, bagpiper, Bagpiping, piping, pagan clergy, Pagan Clergy, pagan wedding, Wiccan Wedding, Earth religions, Christian Wedding, Jewish Wedding, Baptist, Methodist, Protestant, Catholic, Lutheran, LDS, agnostic, atheistic, Jehovah's Witness, Quaker, Mormon, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Eastern Orthodox, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Seventh Day Adventist, Orthodox Wedding, Native American Ceremony, your cultural heritage, commitment ceremonies, commitment ceremony, your religious preferences, and much more. funeral services, funerals, eulogies, Eulogies, Eulogy, eulogy, memorial services, baptisms, baptize, baptized, wicanning, wiccaning, quinceanera, quincenera, coming of age, 15th birthday, sweet 15, sweet 16, Earth based religion, nature based religion. Fees, prices, donations, gifts, honorarium, chaplain, Chaplain services, pastor, Pastor, Reverend.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/weddingofficiants/>

[\[About Universal Ministry\]](#) [\[Custom Wedding Ceremony - wedding vows\]](#) [\[Funeral Services\]](#) [\[About Reverend Angelle\]](#) [\[email Rev Angelle\]](#) [\[a humorous look at religion\]](#) [\[Wedding Links\]](#) [\[TV Weddings\]](#)

Ohio Wedding Officiant - www.OhioWedding.org - Wedding Minister - Mentor, Willoughby, Kirtland, Painesville, Beachwood, Pepper Pike, Chagrin Falls, Wickliffe, Euclid, Perry, Madison, Ashtabula, Geneva, Geneva on the Lake, Willoughby Hills, Cleveland, Kirtland Hills, Mentor on the Lake, Eastlake, Cleveland, Lakewood, Willowick, Ohio, OH, Oh, Northeast Ohio, Lake County, Akron, Canton, Massolin, Northfield, Maximo, Lake County, Cuyahoga County, Ashtabula County, Geauga County, Summit County, Parma, Euclid, Wooster, Kent, Medina, Warren, Chardon, Marion, Springfield, New Philadelphia, Coshocton, Millersburg, Dayton, Columbus, Marion, Toledo, Sylvania, Tallmadge, cuyahoga county, lake county, lorain county, huron, erie, sandusky, ottawa, lucas, fulton, defiance, alliance, ashland, summit, mahoning, athens, green, barberton, bay village, bedford, bellview, berea, brecksville, brookpark, cuyahoga falls, coshocton, fairview park, waterville, oregon, maumee, [Wedding Location Ideas](#) - Ohio officiant wedding minister for maarrriage ceremony wedding lady, Rev Angelle, wedding ceremony ohio



WEDDINGWIRE

PLANNING TOOLS VENUES VENDORS FORUMS DRESSES IDEAS REGISTRY



Wedding Officials

in (E.g. Columbus)

Weddings / Wedding Vendors / Wedding Officials / Ohio Wedding Officials / Columbus Wedding



The Uncommon Officiant

7351 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43235 [Map](#) · [Phone number](#) · [Visit website](#)

Request pricing

★★★★★ 53 reviews

4.9 out of 5.0

Typical Price

📄 \$400

About The Uncommon Officiant

I am a licensed wedding officiant from Worthington, Ohio and I have been performing weddings in Columbus and the central Ohio region since 2011. I love what I do and in the past 8 years I have presided over more than 300 ceremonies. I call myself The "Uncommon" Officiant simply because I do things a little differently. Rather than simply insert your names into an existing ceremony template, I specialize in making sure your ceremony is personal and enjoyable. I take the time to walk you through the process prior to your wedding, get to know the both of you, and write custom ceremony that is only about you and your relationship; all while adding a little personality into things to ensure everyone has a good time.

- [Visit Me On Wedding Wire](#)
- [Find me on Facebook](#)



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- [F.A.Q.s](#)
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F.A.Q.s

Do you perform gay weddings?

Absolutely. I've been performing LGBTQ weddings since before they were legal. I even had the honor of performing the first ever gay wedding at the Statehouse (May 13th, 2017) I am well versed with the nuances which accompany a same sex wedding or gender non-binary wedding. But like with everything else I do, I am happy to celebrate love in all of its forms.

How did you get started?

My adventure in officiating actually started at my own wedding. My wife and I were on the hunt to something a little different with our ceremony, but we were unable to find someone who would perform what we wanted. Everyone we talked to said something to the effect of "That's not what a wedding is supposed to be." I balked at that idea, so I wrote my own wedding and had a friend perform it. We had so much fun that night that, as my friends started getting married, they began asking me to write and perform their ceremonies. Since then it has become a passion as much as it has a career.

Do you stay for the reception?

The quick answer is: not usually. I'll stick around for part of cocktail hour to take care of the paperwork and maybe eat a cheese cube or two, but I typically make a quiet exit before the introductions. Weddings are expensive enough and I don't like burdening my couples by asking them to feed me. If it is the case that a couple really wants me to stay, I will attempt to make that happen. Sometimes I've got other weddings to get to and sometimes I've got dad-duties at home, but I'll do what I can to hang out for a bit.

Do you stay for the rehearsal dinner?

Like with wedding receptions, the answer is generally no. However, there are 2 schools of thought here. My perspective has always been that rehearsal dinners are a family affair; a chance for the two families to spend some time together and get to know each other in a new intimate way before the wedding. So out of respect, I opt not to attend as I would not want to invade. The other school of thought, which I was introduced to in 2018, is that I am performing an important or intimate service and it may be the case that members of the family want to get to know me a little bit before I do that. If your family happens to be of the 2nd variety, I will once again do what I can to attend.

Will you wear a costume or cosplay?

Yes, yes, and thrice times a yes. Did I mention I love celebrating people in all of the ways that bring them joy? This just adds to the fun. My closet is large and I have a number of costume/outfits to choose from, but I'm up for most challenges. However, if I don't own it and it is the case that you can't provide it, then the cost would fall on you. I have a number of sources from which to obtain new costumes, so I can help hunt it down if you need.

Will you perform a ceremony at a correctional facility?

Yes, but know that I charge \$50.00 extra for the background check required to enter and perform at any given correctional institution. Know also that most of these facilities are a fair distance from my home, so a travel fee would be incurred as well.

Are you Religious?

Strictly speaking, I am not religious, but I am a scholar of religions across the world. Human belief systems have always fascinated me. I recognize some spiritual philosophies within myself, but I am a pretty staunch atheist. However I never let my own beliefs (or lack thereof) interfere with the needs of my couples.

Have additional questions?

I'm always here for inquiring couples. Send me a message using my contact form and I'll get back with you as soon as possible.

Name *

First

Last

Email *

Comment or Message *

Submit

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WEDDINGWIRE

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Wedding Officers in (E.g. Hudson)

Weddings / Wedding Vendors / Wedding Officers / Ohio Wedding Officers / Cleveland

Blonde and Ordained LLC

200 , East Streetsboro Street, Hudson, OH 44236 · [Phone number](#) · [Visit website](#)

Request pricing

WEDDINGWIRE
-5% Discount

Typical Price
\$300

About Blonde and Ordained LLC

I am a non-denominal ordained minister who will curate your wedding ceremony to be all that you both want it to be. Your ceremony should be a reflection of your intimate love story that is shared with each other, famil, and friends on your wedding day. I became an ordained minister about a year ago and was performing them for a Pop up wedding vendor, Haus of Cool. I have since married several couples in various locations throughout Northeast Ohio. From intimate gatherings or elopments to large elaborate weddings or even themed weddings. I work closley with my couples so that they covey their expression of love towards each other. I look forward to speaking with you and creating the perfect wedding ceremony.

Blonde and Ordained, LLC

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Blonde and Ordained: Your Wedding Officiant

Creating Memories



My Services



Wedding
Elopement
Commitment
Vow renewal

[Let's Chat!](#)

App. 247 1/3



Christian
Interfaith
Non-denominational (mentions God)
Non-religious (no mention of God)



Same sex
Destination
Same Day*

**must be within a 25 mile radius of 44236*

"She really made our vows special she learned about who we were as a couple and made more personalized. My family thought we new her prior and they enjoyed listening to her. She is truly amazing and so much fun! We are happy and feel lucky she was apart of our special day!
She is a wonderful person!"

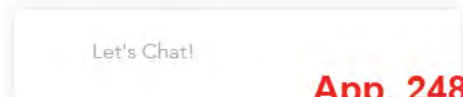
Jodi R.



"Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well"

Lord Chesterfield

Contact Me





WEDDINGWIRE

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Wedding Officiants

in (E.g. Richfield)

Weddings / Wedding Vendors / Wedding Officiants / Ohio Wedding Officiants / Cleveland

Two Shall Become One Ceremonies

Richfield, Richfield, OH 44286 [Map](#) · [Phone number](#) · [Visit website](#)

[Request pricing](#)

★★★★★ 10 reviews

5.0 out of 5.0

Typical Price

\$150

About Two Shall Become One Ceremonies

Two Shall Become One Ceremonies is a wedding officiant based in Akron, Ohio, serving the surrounding areas. This wedding officiant specializes in creating customized wedding ceremonies that reflect you and your love story. Two Shall Become One Ceremonies incorporates unique, special touches that will make your wedding day a celebration to remember.



Two Shall Become one Ceremonies

welcome About Services M

Services

Your wedding ceremony will reflect the uniqueness of every couples relationship,
and the celebration of your LOVE.

Non-Denominational Ceremonies-

Ceremonies that are of no religious denomination and or ceremonies that represent a spiritual connotation.



Commitment Ceremonies-

Couples who want to express themselves and their love with a public affirmation of commitment to one another.

Same-Sex Ceremonies- Ceremony that unites two people of the same gender.

What your ceremony may include ;

Ceremonies that honor parents or relatives that are no longer with us.
Promises to your Children Ceremony.
Two or more wedding couples.
Water ,Honey or Wine Ceremony.
Hand Ceremony.
Handfasting Ceremony
Sand,Rose or Unity Candle Ceremony.

Renewal of Vows Ceremony-

When a married couple would like to reaffirm their wedding vows.



Wedding Officiants



in (E.g. Youngstown)

Weddings / Wedding Vendors / Wedding Officiants / Ohio Wedding Officiants / Cleveland Wedding C

Great Conjunction Weddings

Youngstown, OH 44510 [Map](#) · [Phone number](#)

[Request pricing](#)

Typical Price

 \$300

About Great Conjunction Weddings

Great Conjunction offers full wedding Officiant services including non-denominational, on location, short notice and full length traditional vow ceremonies.

We understand that you want a wedding ceremony that is as unique and special as you are - we are here to help. Our ministers will work with you to craft the perfect ceremony that reflects your love and beliefs, providing sample wedding ceremonies, readings and vows, helping you with all the details of your ceremony and filing your paperwork quickly and efficiently.

We offer full-service and mobile wedding officiant service, specializing in completely custom ceremonies, theme weddings and non-traditional locations. We strive for excellence so that you can relax and enjoy your wedding day.

We are spiritual, accepting and welcoming of all faiths and sexual orientations. Love is Love!

Located in Youngstown and serving Northeast Ohio.

Let us bring your dream wedding to life!

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Great Conjunction Weddings

We offer officiant services. Short notice, on-location, non-denominational and full traditional vow ceremonies.

OUR OFFICIANTS



Rev. Joe Thornton

Joe's kind and thoughtful approach to wedding ceremonies will help you create your perfect wedding day. Specializing in civil ceremonies, he will help you create a non-demoninational, spiritually focused ceremony.

Joyful and confident, Joe has a background in Religion and a demominational or c

[Read More](#)

Great Conjunction Weddings

Written by [John Thornton](#)

Great Conjunction offers full wedding Officiant services including non-denominational, on location, short notice &

We understand that you want a wedding ceremony that is as unique and special as you are – we are here to help you create a ceremony that reflects your love and beliefs, providing sample wedding ceremonies, readings and vows, helping with wedding paperwork quickly and efficiently.

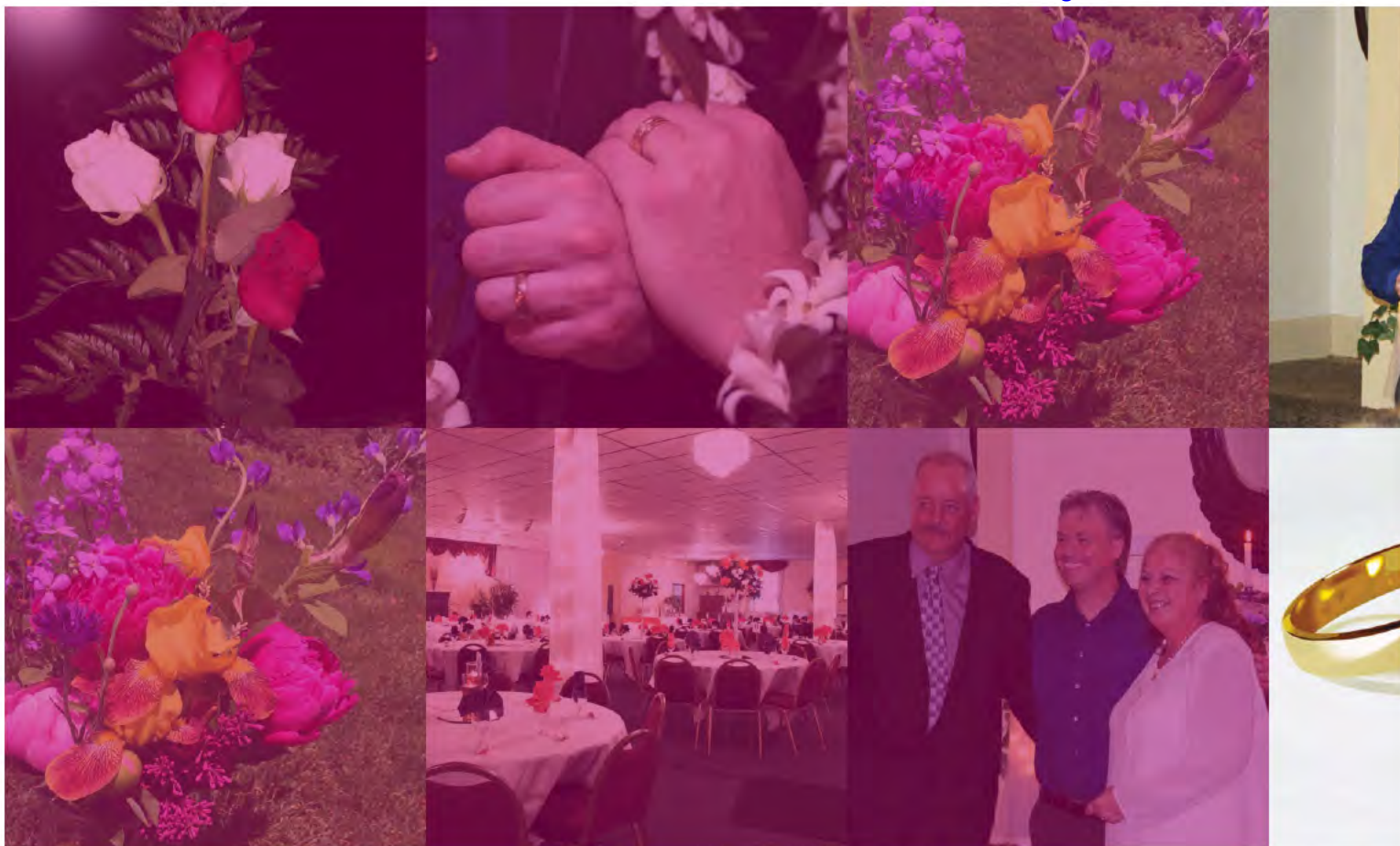
We offer full-service and mobile wedding officiant service, specializing in completely custom ceremonies, theme and music excellence so that you can relax and enjoy your wedding day.

We are spiritual, accepting and welcoming of all faiths and sexual orientations. Love is Love!

Located in Youngstown and serving Northeast Ohio.

Let us bring your dream wedding to life!

[❏ Prev](#)



OUR SERVICES



Full Wedding Officiant Package

A Standard ceremony custom designed to your liking (civil, s or Facetime if preferred by the couple) and unlimited phone ceremony. Providing a selection of readings and rituals that counseling session. Conducting the Rehearsal. Conducting t the ceremony is complete. ~\$300

Includes

- * Custom Ceremony/vows
- * Rehearsal
- * Wedding Ceremony
- * Pre-Wedding Counsel (Optional)
- * Phone and email consultations
- * Filing wedding license

App. 254

Does not Include

- * Travel Time outside Youngstown

Contact Us!



A Simple Commitment Package

A Standard ceremony custom designed to your liking (civil, s or Facetime if preferred by the couple) and unlimited phone ceremony. Providing a selection of readings and rituals that ceremony. Filing your signed wedding license when the cere

Includes

- * Custom Ceremony/vows
- * Wedding Ceremony
- * Phone and email consultations
- * Filing wedding license

Does not Include

- * Travel Time outside Youngstown

Contact Us!



Quick Commitment

An Elopement ceremony, held in a Youngstown area locatio scripts (civil or spiritual) and paperwork filing. 24 hours minir

Includes

- * choice of 5 standard ceremony scripts. (civil or spiritual)
- * Wedding Ceremony
- * Filing wedding license

Does not Include

* Travel Time outside Youngstown

[Contact Us!](#)



Wedding Rehearsal

Rehearsal makes for a smooth and relaxed ceremony!
Let us conduct your rehearsal and make sure you are as relaxed as possible.
\$75

[Contact Us!](#)



Pre-Wedding Spiritual Counsel

Helpful in creating a strong foundation for your marriage.
1 hour session for pre-wedding conflict resolution. ~ \$85

[Contact Us!](#)



Travel Time

Sometimes the perfect location is right in your own backyard.
Any ceremony performed outside the Youngstown Area. ~ \$

[Contact Us!](#)

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[Diversity & Inclusion Statement](#)



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PLANNING TOOLS VENUES VENDORS FORUMS DRESSES IDEAS REGISTRY



Wedding Officiants



in (E.g. Chagrin Falls)

[Weddings](#) / [Wedding Vendors](#) / [Wedding Officiants](#) / [Ohio Wedding Officiants](#) / [Cleveland Wedding C](#)

Spiritual Inspiration Ministries

8210 Macedonia Commons Blvd, Suite 188, Macedonia, OH 44056 [Map](#) · [Phone number](#)

[Request pricing](#)

Typical Price

 \$300

About Spiritual Inspiration Ministries

Spiritual Inspiration Ministries is a professional wedding officiant service based in Macedonia, Ohio. This interfaith team of ministers and officiants are licensed in almost all states, LGBTQ-friendly and available seven days a week to handle your wedding event. Regardless of your wedding vision, the experienced officiants at Spiritual Inspiration Ministries will work alongside you to create the ceremony of your dreams.



About Us



Our Community

We are an interfaith community whose primary focus is to oversee that extraordinary moment when two hearts join together. We are honored to officiate your wedding, one of the most important days of your life. If you have a concept, tell us and we will help you create the ceremony of your dreams. Also offered are commitment ceremonies, vow renewals, spiritual counseling, baptisms and end of life services.



Our wedding officiant is here for you.

We are available 7 days a week to conduct weddings, commitment ceremonies and all of our other services in any location anytime day or night. LGBTQ and all are welcome! minister wedding officiant



Love to Hear From You

Contact us to discuss your particular wedding wedding officiant minister needs and how we may assist you: 330-564-7558



Our Pastor

Curriculum Vitae— Reverend Edward Niam DD

Reverend Edward Niam DD is the founder of Spiritual Inspiration Ministries, a multi-faith community whose primary focus is to oversee that extraordinary moment when two hearts join in holy matrimony. Also provided are commitment ceremonies, vow renewals, spiritual counseling, baptisms and end of life services. Everyone is welcome regardless of your faith, your beliefs and sexual orientation. We are all children of God and deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. Reverend Edward provides life/wellness coaching and pastoral counseling to Individuals, groups and corporate clients in the greater Cleveland and Akron, Ohio areas and across the USA. His mission is to help people find and develop their own power to become happy, healthy, focused, productive, kind, compassionate and loving utilizing personal guidance from God. He has extensively studied world religions including Christianity, Buddhism and Islam. A Grand Master of Shaolin Kung Fu, Tai Chi, Healing Touch, Traditional Chinese Medicine, Acupuncture & Meditation & has been helping people utilize the secrets of health and wellness therapies for 45 years.

become creators of their own destiny and live a happy, healthy, more focused, productive, prosperous and fulfilling life.

Reverend Edward founded Tai Chi Institute USA and created *~The Movement of Life~* which provides training for people of all ages to improve their mental, physical and spiritual health through concepts found in Tai Chi, Qi Gong, Meditation, Shaolin Kung Fu and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). Founded the Shan Sing School of Chinese Martial Arts and holds the rank of Black Sash. Creator of Out of Danger, a self-defense system that provides people with the hands-on-skills needed to protect them in any situation. Founder-Athlete Training USA utilizing the *Shaolin Warrior Athlete Training "SWAT"* program which helps athletes reach their full potential and join the ranks of the Elite minister wedding officiant .

Founded and was CEO of Corporate Solutions, Inc. which provided nationwide employment background screening and training and development to human resources professionals. Was president of Niam Investigations, Inc., that specialized in combating white collar crime and successfully prosecuted the first industrial espionage case in the state of Ohio and one of five in the U.S. Served as Director of Investigations for the Summit County Prosecutor's Office with the focus on prosecuting criminal and civil fraud and public corruption.

Authored numerous published articles regarding employment background screening which have appeared in national publications such as USA Today Magazine and Employment Management Today.

Published articles in Balanced Living and Inside Kung Fu Magazine relating to Chinese martial arts and Tai Chi.

Received a BA in History/Political Science/Philosophy from The University of Akron. Graduated from the Summit County Sheriff's Academy and the Special Weapons and Tactics Training (SWAT) in London Ohio. Served on the boards of the American Society for Industrial Security, the Society for Human Resource Management, the Information Systems Security Association, the Children's Ballet Theatre and the Silver Lake Country Club Celebrity Golf Classic—proceeds benefiting the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Served on the board of the Fitzgerald Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies and the College of Business Administration Alumni Board at The University of Akron. Served as president of the Board of Trustees and was a faculty member of the Dance Institute of The University of Akron. Previously instructed in Junior Achievement and for 10 years taught in the "Akron After School Program" working with at risk children from first through fifth grade.

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An Unusual Affair

Cinnamon Lake, West Salem, OH 44287 [Map](#) · [Phone number](#)

[Request pricing](#)

★★★★★ 31 reviews
5.0 out of 5.0

Typical Price
 \$350

[Photos & Videos](#) 38 · [About](#) · [Reviews](#) 31 · [Pricing](#) · [FAQs](#) · [Real Weddings](#) 1 · [Deals](#) 1 · [Network](#)

About An Unusual Affair

An Unusual Affair LLC is a team of officiants ready to take on any type of wedding in Ohio. They are ready to work with any couple to create a ceremony that ultimately represents their relationship. They have worked with couples to specialize in virtually any ceremony type including traditional, LGBTQ, cosplay, sci/fi, ren faire, and are always ready to take on something new.

Services Offered

The staff offers a variety of officiating packages and all come with a free consultation to find out if their services are right for you. They understand that some couples are looking to make every aspect of their big day unique and they feel the ceremony should be no different. From customized vows to cosplay ceremony options, they are ready to make your ideas a reality. All packages are customizable but are based on the complexity of the type of ceremony. Their package list includes, but is not limited to:

- Simply official (no ceremony documentation completion)
- Elopements (the couple and the officiant)
- Ultralite ceremonies (simple, elegant)
- Gold Ceremony (more complex, full coordination with pertinent vendors)
- Cosplay Ceremony (in character, with or without costume)
- Ultimate Cosplay Ceremony (fully in character, with costume)
- Cosplay Events



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i Wedding Officiant specializing in cosplay, traditional, LGBTQ, personal and meaningful wedding ceremonies and life events.

i An Unusual Affair LLC is a woman and veteran owned company who comprise a team of officiants ready to take on any type of wedding in Ohio. They are ready to work with any couple who are legally able to be wed and create a ceremony that ultimately represents their relationship. They have worked with couples to specialize in virtually any ceremony type including traditional, LGBTQ, cosplay, sci/fi, ren faire, and are always ready to take on something new. Services Offered The staff offers a variety of officiating packages and all come with a free consultation to find out if their services are right for you. They understand that some couples are looking to make every aspect of their big day unique and they feel the ceremony should be no different. From customized vows to cosplay ceremony options, they are ready to make your ideas a reality. All packages are customizable and the costs are based on the complexity of the type of ceremony. Their package list includes, but is not limited to: Simply official (no ceremony documentation completion) Elopements (the couple and the officiant) Ultralite ceremonies (simple, elegant) Gold Ceremony (more complex, full coordination with pertinent vendors) Cosplay Ceremony (in character, with or without costume) Ultimate Cosplay Ceremony (fully in character, with costume, participate in reception) Cosplay Events (gender reveals, proposals, you name it!)



Personal, Affordable,
and Out of the Box

More

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Our Wedding Experience

When my wife and I got married we struggled finding the balance between the simple, beautiful, and unique wedding experience we were envisioning and the price tag and stress associated with that vision. Although the day was perfect the road getting there was not. We believe that everyone deserves that beautiful experience and it doesn't have to include the stress or cost. That is the simple concept behind Wedding in a Box.

Tailored to Fit

Your Occasion

Whether you're planning a wedding, a vow renewal, or a last-minute ceremony we can help make the day a special occasion. We are LGBTQ+ friendly and welcoming to all with discounts available for Service members.

We understand how confusing and stressful planning even an intimate wedding can be. A brief description of our services below will hopefully point you in the right direction.

The Officiant Package

Our officiant services are ideal for weddings of any size at any venue. Whether you've planned the perfect wedding or just want a private ceremony for two our personalized service will be perfect for the occasion.

The Pop Up Package

Ideal for when you have just a few people you couldn't imagine your special day without. The Pop Up package provides a total wedding experience of a cake or cupcakes, flowers and photos for 2-12 people. We're happy to suggest romantic locations and have a list of vendors for any additional needs.

The Micro- Wedding Package

Friends are the family we choose and if you can't imagine your day without your closest friends as well as your families a Micro-Wedding may be perfect for you! The Micro-Wedding package provides a total wedding experience of a cake or cupcakes, flowers and photos for up to 24 people. We're happy to suggest romantic locations and have a list of vendors for any additional needs.

The Elopement Package

With an intimate wedding the possibilities are endless and we're here to make planning the whole thing fun and stress free. We'll help you pick the perfect venue and bring together the whole experience with a cake, flowers and photos. Customizable and very personal, our Elopement package is something for just the two of you!

If you still have questions or a special request we're here to help! Click the consultation button below to contact us directly.



Cleveland, OH

Tel: (330) 391-1187
weddinginaboxinfo@gmail.com

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Wedding Officiant, Ordained Minister in Ohio. LGBTQ Friendly

Unity Ceremonies

Cleveland Wedding Officiant

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WELCOME

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Welcome and thank you for visiting Unity Ceremonies. My name is Matt Rutkowski and as your wedding officiant, I am able to serve couples; whatever their faith, beliefs and sexual orientation. I offer wedding officiant services in Cleveland and Northeast Ohio ranging from personal elopements to larger gatherings for couples looking for secular, non-denominational or interfaith ceremony.

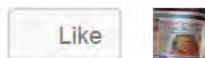
I am 100% devoted to the craft of your perfect ceremony and I will preside over your wedding ceremony with professionalism and care. I believe in the power of positive thinking. This you will hear in your wedding ceremony; it is a true reminder of what it will be like to be united in marriage. I believe in gratitude; outward praise for life, love, health and the Earth. I believe in the blessing to be mindful of your spouse and to above all, make him or her happy. I believe in simple, true love. I believe your wedding ceremony to be a ritual that will help you to interact more positively.

We need to engage each other with more smiles, kind words, encouragement, gratitude, meaningful conversations, honest dialogues and sincere positive interactions. From this comes love, romance and true friendship – qualities to build upon and foundations to rely upon for all of time.

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Weddings for the Ages

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We believe in celebrating LOVE

Weddings are a celebration of your love, and our officiants are committed to bringing you and your guests together in one of the most inspiring and rewarding moments of your lives. (Did we mention that we are also hopeless romantics?) To help ensure that you have the wedding of your dreams, we custom-design your ceremony to be personal and one-of-a-kind.

We celebrate love in all forms, and all couples are welcome at Weddings for the Ages. We have experience performing weddings for same-sex, opposite-sex and non-binary couples. We are more than happy to use whatever pronoun(s) you prefer and will design the ceremony to fit with your personal beliefs. From traditional ceremonies to elopements and everything in between, Weddings for the Ages can help make your day one to remember.



Experience makes the difference

We have all attended boring weddings where the officiant droned on while people fell asleep in their seats. Your wedding will be anything but boring when you work with Weddings for the Ages. Our officiants are all experienced writers, public speakers and some are even musicians who are able to blend a variety of skills together to make your wedding meaningful and engaging for both you and your guests.

With the experience of over 170 weddings, we know how to keep your guests engaged and entertained as we share how your love is incredible and unique.

38 Reviews



Thumbtack



Weddings for the Ages



Book your free one-hour consultation now

Meet the Team

Weddings for the Ages officiants are ordained and licensed by the State of Ohio to legally solemnize marriages. We are able to perform weddings in many states, though travel and licensing costs may apply.



Atonn Smeltzer
Owner, officiant

Atonn has attended more than a few weddings where people were snoozing in their seats before the final I dos had been said. Today, as a wedding officiant, he has made it his mission to help couples create custom-made ceremonies that bring people together in an inspiring and rewarding way. Atonn is an experienced writer, public speaker and musician. Add to that over 15 years of professional voice training, and you can rest assured that your ceremony will be engaging and meaningful for both you and your guests.

As the officiant of over 150 weddings, Atonn's experience speaks for itself. From highly spiritual to completely non-religious, every ceremony is unique and designed to fit with each couple's beliefs. If you are looking for an officiant to perform full, traditional ceremonies, elopements and everything in between, Atonn would love to help you take this next step in your life.

Carlyn has been a licensed wedding officiant in the State of **Ohio** since 2013. She has performed weddings for people of all walks of life, of all ages, and of all gender identities, with guest lists numbering from zero into the hundreds. She loves connecting with her clients and working closely with them to design exactly the right wedding to suit their unique personalities and visions. She specializes in secular ceremonies, though she is comfortable with all levels of spirituality and loves working with couples to find the right balance of spiritual and secular to suit their taste.

Carlyn and her spouse, Zann, got married twice, both times with Atonn (Weddings for the Ages owner) as the officiant—once in December of 2016, in their living room with only their cat as witness, and again during their wedding the following July. When they're not playing Dungeons and Dragons with friends, Carlyn can often be found crocheting gigantic blankets and playing her viola with the Sylvania Community Orchestra. She can't wait to meet you!



*Carlyn
Campbell-
Johannes*
Officiant



*Dr. Howard "Ardy"
Gonyer, PhD*
Officiant

Dr. Ardy Gonyer is a Bowling Green, **Ohio** native. Accustomed to public speaking, Dr. Gonyer can be found at his day job Monday through Friday in the office of student affairs at BGSU. When the workweek is over, Ardy doesn't just kick up his heels and relax. Instead, he can be found officiating weddings for couples from all backgrounds and beliefs.

What excited Ardy the most about officiating for Weddings for the Ages is his passionate belief that all consenting adults should be able to marry whom they choose, in the manner they choose. As an officiant, he has the opportunity to help couples take their dream wedding and make it into a reality.

When he isn't working at the university or officiating weddings, Ardy hosts trivia at The Stone's Throw, enjoys playing golf, Settlers of Catan, and spending time with his lovely bride, Megan.

Biography coming soon.



Scott Stechschulte
Officiant

Scott has been officiating weddings since 2017. He started by officiating his best friend's wedding, and then he was the officiant for his sister's wedding! At that point, he knew he wanted to do more weddings, so he joined Weddings for the Ages! Since then, Scott has found this to be one of the most fulfilling jobs he could have hoped for. As he says, "nothing is more rewarding than when you see the couple whose wedding you just did out on the dance floor for their first dance together. Seeing them so happy in the moment, and just knowing that you helped get them there is one of the better experiences of my life."

Scott has been a Bowling Green townie for most of his life, attending St. Al's, then BGHS and BGSU. He developed a knack for theater and public speaking, frequently performing as a member of Shakespeare in the park during the summer and fall. Scott can talk your ear off about movies and shows, comics and books, and music of all varieties, so be careful not to get trapped in one of his stories! Scott loves meeting new people from all walks of life, and is never afraid to get up and speak in front of a crowd!

Biography coming soon

Corey Schwanz
Officiant

Biography coming soon

Jeremy Sharninghouse
Officiant



Rachel is a newcomer to the officiating scene with a passion to help couples create the wedding of their dreams.

Rachel discovered her new found passion after recently being married by Atonn. She has been



Rachel Wright
Officiant

to many weddings before and realizes just how important an officiant is in setting the perfect mood for the big day. She loves getting to meet new people and learning their personalities so she can provide the best experience possible.

As the previous lead singer and lyricist of a touring rock band, Rachel is no stranger to public speaking and her 7 years of customer service experience will help ensure she meets her couples needs and make their dreams become a reality.

Chris began performing weddings not necessarily because it was a lifelong passion, but rather because his cousin and his cousin's wife "couldn't imagine anyone better" to marry them. Since then he has married many other couples who have all approached him with the same sentiment. Needless to say, Chris might have just been born to be an officiant!

However, Chris' real passion lies in craft beer and the Ohio State Buckeyes.. oh, and his own lovely wife, of course. They live in Columbus with their two rescue kittens, Penny and Lincoln. He's lived in three states and loves adventures which means he's ready for any wedding experience. If you're looking for someone to make you feel right at home from the first handshake, Chris is your guy!



Chris Costic
Officiant

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Packages and Fees

Full Custom Wedding Ceremony \$400.00

Most wedding fall under this heading. It includes a fully personalized wedding ceremony, early draft, editing, performance, and handling of all official paperwork.

Intimate Engagement\$300.00 – \$350.00

For smaller weddings of less than 20 people, my prices are a little bit lower. This includes a smaller ceremony, early draft, editing, performance, and handling of all official paperwork.

Elopement \$100.00

Nothing but the basics. Myself and the two of you, a location of your choosing, a quick kiss, and some paperwork. More than the courthouse, but less than a shindig.

Script Writing \$200.00

Have a friend that you want to perform your ceremony, but who may not be the best writer? I can help. I'll create an entire customized ceremony for them to read for the enjoyment of your friends, family, and loved ones.

Rehearsals \$100.00

I am always happy to help the wedding party practice before the big show goes down. Some weddings don't have a lot of moving parts and a rehearsal isn't necessary, so they are always optional.

Would you like me to be your officiant? Have questions about my packages, pricing, or dates? Use the contact form below and I will respond as quickly as I can. Time is of the essence when there's a wedding to plan!

Name *

First

Last

What's the date of your wedding?

Provide the date of your wedding. If you're not sure yet, no problem. Just leave this blank.

Location

Provide the city and state your wedding will be held.

Email *

Comment or Message *

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Rev Daria Kathleen Sherman PhD

5480 Cable Point Circle NW, Canton, OH 44718 [Map](#) · [Phone number](#)

[Request pricing](#)

★★★★★ 3 reviews
5.0 out of 5.0

Typical Price
 \$150

About Rev Daria Kathleen Sherman PhD

Rev Daria Kathleen Sherman PhD is an ordained interfaith minister through the International Metaphysical Ministry University Seminary, and is licensed in Ohio to solemnize a marriage. Daria holds a doctorate in Philosophy specializing in Metaphysical Counseling. She guides couples through an easy yet thorough process in creating the Wedding of their dreams from simple intimate to lavish exquisite gatherings.

Suggested donation \$150 - \$200 includes meetings to plan wedding ceremony, and couple's counseling. Also included is creation, preparation, writing of readings, prayers etc. for ceremony, rehearsal, and wedding ceremony.

Rev Daria advocates marriage equality. She officiates diverse religious, secular, and spiritual ceremonies. A published author of 30 books and a professional writer, Daria will design a ceremony that uniquely symbolizes your personal heartfelt beliefs and desires. Your wedding ceremony will not be a generic script. Rather a tapestry of readings, vows, and ceremony that reflects the beauty of your love for each other on your wedding day.



Photo by Adanne Mahowez

ABOUT ME

In love with the written word A little bit subversive glam Ridiculously organized Basically if Walt Whitman, David Bowie, and Martha Stewart had a baby, it'd be me

I believe your ceremony is the most meaningful part of your wedding day I's the first thing you'll ever do as a married couple, and you should be able to look back on it together in the coming years for strength and joy The way you approach your ceremony speaks volumes about the way you'll approach many things in your marriage Together we create something of partnership, collaboration, and creativity

I am a social justice advocate and a health care professional I'm a registered clergy member in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and an active member of the International Association of Professional Wedding Officiants I'm also a freelance celebrant, trained by the Celebrant Foundation and Institute in creating and performing rituals Previous to my work as an officiant, I led a Quaker organization and was a field organizer

My work as a celebrant encompasses other ceremonies and rites of passage like baby namings, coming of age rituals, funerals, and funerals I'm a homebased caterer and green bride

When I'm not performing ceremonies you can find me cycling around town, making mimosas, concocting smoothie bowls, being a mom to two crazy-loving boys, and paying the bills (You can check out my playlists of non-traditional ceremony songs at the Spotify link below) I love creating the rhythm, structure, and confidence for others to take center stage and rock

If you're straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or of color, married, or single, or having trouble finding someone who gets you, please I proudly serve people of all faiths, races, genders, ages, or orientations, and especially in the greater Boston/Cambridge area, with sensitivity, joy, and creativity

Beth
she/hers



To love well is the task in all meaningful relationships,
not just romantic bonds.

BETH STOKES, CELEBRANT

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LOCATION

Cambridge, MA 02139

Serving the Greater Boston area, Los Angeles, CA + destinations

CONTACT

beth[at]wellwedbybeth[dot]com

Text/Text 617 682 0750

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VOW WRITING + EDITING

One of the central elements of a wedding is the expression of vows you offer to your partner in front of the people who are most special to you. You can feel like a lot. Every couple who marries receives materials to help guide and inform their vow writing. If they'd like, for those who want even more support, offer complete vow writing and vow editing services.

You can also work with me remotely. Whether you're in Athens or Zurich, I'm happy to provide the same support via online or phone interviews.

VOW WRITING

Your feelings, your promises, your voice with the support of someone who's done this before. If you'd like help crafting deeply personal and custom vows that reflect your unique voice, love, and commitment, this service includes a one-on-one interview, first draft, a revision pass to incorporate your feedback, and a rehearsal version of your vows with practical delivery cues.

\$125 INDIVIDUAL

\$250 COUPLE

VOW EDITING

Are you pretty sure what you want to say but would love some neutral and practical feedback? Do you and your partner have radically different goals about the tone or length of your vows? This editing review ensures your vows are complementary in length, tone, and meaning. It includes a rehearsal version with practical speaking cues.

\$125 COUPLE

BETH STOKES, CELEBRANT

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Photo by Andrea Van O'souw

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Custom Vows - \$149.99

Wedding Vow Concierge-Chelsea Maria, Our Team Blog Writer & Published Contemporary Author (5 novels and counting) will write custom wedding vows that sound like you, verbalize what's most important to you about the love of your life, and she will write your vows in your personal style and personal voice.



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Includes:

- One hour (approximate) consultation, either in person, over the phone, or online
- Up to 400 words of written text
- Up to two revisions based on your feedback

** A rush fee of \$150 applies to projects due within 14 days. **

ORDER NOW



Review By A Pro - \$99.99

If you've written something you're feeling "meh" about, or know you're missing a finishing touch, we can help! We offer assistance to shape the current state of your vows into something you (and your sweetheart)

App. 281

will love.

Includes:

- Edits to your draft vows or speech, including pointers and ideas to make your entire piece come together nicely
- Up to two revisions based on your feedback

** A rush fee of \$50 applies to projects due within 7 days. **

ORDER NOW

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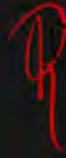
Sign up

754-229-9855

Info@romanceonthego.com

"We Bring Romance To ANY Space Or Place"

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is Romance On The Go, Concierge Services™ (ROTGO)?

Romance On The Go, Concierge Services™ embraces the concept of intimacy and romance. Our services are tailored towards each couple's individual needs and desires; whether it is romance, intimacy or to sustain. We create one of a kind experiences for couples who want to strengthen and reaffirm the love in their relationships.

What does a Romance Concierge do?

We're glad you asked! As a romance concierge, it is our job to make sure that you give your spouse or partner a night to remember, without dealing with the stress that normally accompanies such an intimate evening. We have six personalized packages that celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, wedding nights, and just because. Each package is filled with fun, kinky, adventurous, and relaxing components. Once you choose your theme, we utilize our network of vendors and suppliers (from restaurants, hotels, florists, spas, chefs and much more), to create an intimate experience down to the last detail, leaving you free to do nothing but show up and enjoy.

What are the benefits of hiring a Romance Concierge?

Planning the perfect romantic rendezvous takes effort. Romance On The Go, Concierge Services™ eliminates the hassle of making sure all of the details are covered for your intimate evening and all essential elements are in place to bring your fantasy to life. All you have to do is show up and enjoy your evening!

Why hire you?

You can have the perfect intimate evening planned in your head, but if it isn't



executed precisely, it won't matter.

We take pride in taking care of all of the details for you and making sure all of your romantic needs are met. We offer a wide selection of romantic rendezvous packages that are sure to create excitement, anticipation, and titillate the senses! Our goal is that you "Carpe Diem" (Seize The Day) or "Carpe Noctem" (Seize The Night) and focus on nothing but each other.

Can't I just plan my own intimate evening? Why do I need you?

Yes, you could easily plan your own redenzvous, but let's be honest for a quick second, planning a romantic rendezvous does not come easy to many people. Who has the time to think about planning a romantic rendezvous when you have to attend word daily, take care of your home, children, or pets? Your Personal Romance Concierge will help you plan every detail of your unique romantic rendezvous. Whether you have a vision in mind or leave it all up to us, we will create a customized experience that you and your beloved will remember for years to come.

What kind of budget do I need for your concierge services?

ALL packages and services are customized per "Romantic". Basic package prices start at \$199.99 without a one-night hotel stay. Every package can include a one-night stay at a four-star hotel starting at \$149.99. We offer a DIY (Do-It-Yourself) Kit starting at \$399.99. Please contact us for additional information. Phone: 754-229-9855 or Email: Info@romanceonthe-go.com

Can I make changes to the date nights?

Yes, you are given the option to customize some of the essentials and add additional services to your package.

Do you work with LGBTQ couples?

Absolutely! Love is love, We do not discriminate9



754-229-9855

Info@romanceonthego.com

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ALICE SOLOWAY

Uncommon WEDDING OFFICIANT & CELEBRANT

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CONTACT ME!



From the first time I spoke with Alice I knew I wanted to work with her. She made me feel so comfortable and understood exactly what we wanted from the ceremony. My husband and I had been together 25 years and after 5 kids decided now was the time to get married, so as you can imagine we are far from being the most traditional pair but never the less we wanted our ceremony to represent our love and commitment. Alice did just that,

- What is your approach to being a Wedding Officiant and Celebrant?
- I've never heard of a Celebrant. What makes a Celebrant different?
- How do we find out if you are the right Celebrant for us?
- Can we write our own vows?
- Can children, family and friends take part in our ceremony?
- How long should a wedding ceremony be?
- Once we agree to work together, what happens next?
- On our wedding day, what time will you arrive and leave?
- What are your fees and what's included?
- Do we need to have a rehearsal?
- Do you perform LGBTQ ceremonies?

Absolutely! I am truly honored to celebrate the triumphant love stories of ALL couples who want to declare their commitment to spend their lives together as a married couple. I am happy to welcome local couples as well as couples from around the country and the world who choose to marry in New York.

- How far in advance of our ceremony should we contact you?

she captured us to a tee, she was incredible. She made sure our ceremony was personal, romantic, meaningful and had a sense of humor. Her warmth and funniness made all of our guests laugh and cry... you honestly would have thought she had known us our whole lives. She made the entire ceremony so easy and stress free, I cannot recommend Alice enough, she is absolutely amazing!!!

Michelle and Hipolitos 1.18.17

Do you travel outside of Brooklyn, NYC and the Hudson Valley?

How do we get our marriage license?

What if I want to change my name?

What is the best way to contact you?

Wedding Officiant and Celebrant serving Brooklyn, NYC, Westchester, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess, Ulster, and the Hudson Valley



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- No Fuss I Do's
- Just the Script
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**MARRIAGE EQUALITY
CELEBRATED HERE!**



CONTACT ME!



Alice is warm, genuine, and insightful. She makes you feel like part of her family from the moment you meet her. She was very capable of reigning in our scattered thoughts, but also extremely respectful of our wishes, and was able to guide us through creating the most gorgeous ceremony from scratch. Alice is also extremely professional and organized, and provided us with numerous resources for ceremony elements, readings, vows, and beyond. She

Uncommon Weddings

Professionally trained and educated in the art of ceremony, I joyfully celebrate the life-affirming power of love.

Your Wedding

Your ceremony is the centerpiece of your wedding, setting the tone for your celebration and your marriage.

I'll get to know you, listen to your vision and answer your questions. Then I will craft a meaningful, one-of-a-kind ceremony that authentically reflects who you are, shares your love story and honors you, your family and friends.

We will work together until every word meets with your approval.

On your wedding day I will serve as your "ceremony coordinator." I will check in with any other wedding pros (venue, music provider, photographer), create a calm space for you and deliver your ceremony with love.

I'd love to hear more about your plans. Contact me!

Elope NYC

An elopement is all about the two of you. I'm available for an intimate ceremony that celebrates your love and commitment.

I will guide you through the elopement process step-by-step. To arrange a sweet and simple elopement ceremony at the

also gave us complete breakdown of the ceremony and a provided a timeline for our venue, which made the whole event run flawlessly. During our ceremony, Alice made us feel so comfortable, and we could not have picked a better person to lead the most special moments of our day. Afterwards, so many of our guests commented that it was one of the most meaningful and touching ceremonies they had ever been too...and we could not agree more! We cannot thank you enough Alice!

Taryn and Jason 9.16.17

location of your choice, [contact me!](#)

No Fuss I Do's

Looking for an intimate location to say "I do"? I'll provide a warm fireplace where you'll find lots of love and positive energy.

Alice could not have been more helpful, patient and enthusiastic in helping us organize a perfect, simple ceremony. She did a wonderful job of making everything calm and enjoyable. We wholeheartedly recommend her. She even provided the witness who took pictures and sent them to us later that evening. - Daniela and Henry

For an easy, relaxed wedding experience, [contact me!](#)

Just the Script

Are you having a friend or family member officiate your ceremony? As a ceremony professional, I'd be delighted to help write your ceremony. For a distinctive, personalized ceremony script, [contact me!](#)

I was thrilled when friends asked me to officiate their wedding ceremony, but froze at the prospect of actually writing it. I was clueless about what to include. Then I remembered attending a wedding Alice had officiated. I loved the way she had shaped the ceremony and told the love story. With Alice's reassurance and writing expertise, along with my own charm (!), I was able to perform a ceremony my friends were really happy with. - Joaquin

Wedding Officiant and Celebrant serving Brooklyn, NYC, Westchester, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess, Ulster, and the Hudson Valley



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NYState License Info

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For NYC destination weddings

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Alice Soloway

Uncommon Wedding Officiant and Life Cycle Celebrant®

Brooklyn, NYC and Hudson Valley

347-247-3009

alice@alicesolowayweddings.com



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Families

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- > When a Friend Officiates: Tips for Making Your NYC or Hudson Valley Marriage Legal and Your Wedding Ceremony Unforgettable

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CUSTOM SERVICES

Working with Vow Muse is easier than setting up garden gnomes: first, we meet with you. Then, you're off the hook while we write. Finally, we come back together to revise your piece into perfection.



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Don't see what you're looking for? Please contact us (/contact) for further possibilities!

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photography (<http://www.amandaweiphotography.com>)



FAQS

Top 3 FAQs

What is the process for working with a Muse?

- Once the nitty-gritty is complete (signing a short contract and receiving payment), we get to focus on you and your project. Here's how we *usually* work with you:

Step one: it all starts with a conversation. We'll talk to you (either in person, over the phone, or via video chat) about what it is you feel and want to say.

Step two: then, you're off the hook! We'll write, and send you a polished draft about three weeks after your consultation.

Step three: revisions. We'll lead you through collaborative revisions until everything is word-perfect.

What is the timeline for working with a Muse?

- Ideally, for vows and speeches, it's good to start the consultation at least two months before the date of the wedding. For ceremonies, three months is preferred. But, for all our services, we can work on a tighter timeline if necessary. See below for more info on rush jobs.

Is it ok for me to get help with something so personal?

- Absolutely. You ask for professional help for all the other parts of your wedding (like flowers, catering, and cake) because you want them done right. Vows, speeches, and ceremonies are no different. We work with you to tell your unique story, to extract the most important sentiments, and to organize them into a cohesive piece. There's no shame in wanting something so important to be perfect, and getting the help you need to make sure it is. **These folks did, and they're feeling good about it.**

More questions? We have answers!

Keep scrolling for FAQs on services, timing, payment and location.

Process

What is the process for working with a Muse?

- Once the nitty-gritty is complete (signing



a short contract and receiving payment), we get to focus on you and your project. Here's how we *usually* work with you:

Step one: it all starts with a conversation. We'll talk to you (either in person, over the phone, or via video chat) about what it is you feel and want to say.

Step two: then, you're off the hook! We'll write, and send you a polished draft about three weeks after your consultation.

Step three: revisions. We'll lead you through collaborative revisions until everything is word-perfect.

What kind of people do you generally work with?

- That's one of our favorite things: we get to work with all kinds of people from all around the world. Our experience has backed up our belief that **#loveislove** no matter what it looks like. We even created a pride edition of our wedding ceremony toolkit with gender inclusive language for couples who don't identify as "bride" and "groom" so that everyone can craft a thoughtful, unique ceremony.

Is it ok for me to get help with something so personal?

- Absolutely. You ask for professional help for all the other parts of your wedding (like flowers, catering, and cake) because you want them done right. Vows, speeches, and ceremonies are no different. We work with you to tell your unique story, to extract the most important sentiments, and to organize them into a cohesive piece. There's no shame in wanting something

so important to be perfect, and getting the help you need to make sure it is.

These folks did, and they're feeling good about it.

How do you write my vows or speech without knowing me?

- Listening is key. We're a Muse, but you're our muse. Your role is to speak openly during our consultation so that we can get a good feel for you, your voice, and what is important to be said in your vows or speech. Plus, we offer revisions to polish each word into perfection. While we do the heavy lifting, we do our best work with your thoughtful input.

You've mentioned revisions...what's that like?

- When we send your draft, we give you a list of what to focus on to help you review, and encourage your honest feedback. Let us know what you think through track changes, comments in the doc, or a list via email—we can even hop on a quick phone call if that works best for you.

What if I don't like what you write?

- That's a good question. While we try very hard to understand you during the consultation so we can nail it in the very first draft, sometimes that just doesn't happen. But fret not; that's what revisions are for! We're professional writers who can write the same thing ten different ways without blinking an eye (ok, we'd probably blink, but you get the idea). The important part is to communicate what you like and don't like so that we can transform it into something that you love.

I'm nervous about public speaking. Help?

- You're in luck. Since we've worked together to create something amazing, you're already ahead of the game. Knowing you have a great piece can really help calm your nerves. We also send you our [coaching tips](#) to help

you prepare for the big day and we do offer speech coaching (either in person or via video chat) so you can conquer the jitters and feel confident in your delivery.

Services

I'm not telling anyone that I'm getting help from a Muse. Can you keep a secret?

- Yep, we sure can. Many of our clients prefer not to tell their family, friends, and sometimes even their partner that they're using us. While we love when clients shout our praises (or Yelp it), we totally understand when discretion is preferred and are happy to make it our little secret.



Will you re-use the text that you write for me?

- Nope, we actually write every piece from scratch to be custom suited to each of our unique clients.

What if I've started to write something but just need help finishing it?

- We can help with that too! We call that a Review by an Expert. Send over your draft, tell us what's not working (and what is!), we'll send back a revised version of your draft, and then work with you to make sure the words are perfect.

I have no idea what to say in my vows/speech. Can you help?

- Totally. We've been helping people since 2010, and trust us: everyone has

something to say. We help you get there through asking questions, and guiding you through different ways to express yourself.

I want something totally off the wall. Can you help?

- Yes! We love unique projects. If you want something that's not listed in our services section, it's still very likely that we can help. [Send us a note](#) so we can discuss.

What about eulogies, anniversary toasts, corporate speeches?

- Yes yes yes. If you want to speak it, we can write it. We've even been known to help with dating profiles and LinkedIn bios.

Do you officiate weddings?

- Absolutely! Check out the officiating packages on our [services page](#) for more information and pricing.

In what locations do you officiate?

- We generally officiate in the San Francisco Bay Area region of California, as that's where we're based. We officiate in San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, and Alameda with no travel fees, and officiate in the remaining Bay Area with travel fees (and if you want to fly us to New Zealand, we are there!). For officiating in other areas, we are happy to discuss options outside our standard packages: [please inquire!](#)

Timeline

What is the timeline for working with a Muse?

- Ideally it's good to start the consultation at least two months before the date of the wedding for most projects (for ceremonies, three months is preferred). But, for all our services, we can work on a tighter timeline if necessary—do note that rush fees apply if you need a 14-day or less turnaround.

My wedding is soon. Do you do rush jobs?

- Yes! We've written vows for a wedding three days away, though a bit more time than that is preferred. If services are booked very close to the due date, we charge a rush fee, as indicated on our individual [service pages](#).

How far in advance can I book?

- As far as you like! We welcome bookings well in advance for those who like to get all the planning done early.

Payment

Can I pay with a credit card?

- We invoice using PayPal, which means you can pay using a credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover) or with a PayPal account.



When do I pay?

- We ask for a full payment before work begins.

Are there discounts if I book multiple services?

- If the services are for the same wedding and complementary, yes. For example, if you book two vows plus a ceremony we can consolidate

consultations for multiple services into one meeting which saves us time (and you money). If you have questions regarding your situation simply [contact us](#).

Location

Where are you based?

- The foggy San Francisco Bay Area (hello, California). But work with clients all over the country and internationally.

Do you work with clients outside San Francisco? How about international clients?

- Absolutely! We work with clients all across the United States and internationally! We've worked with clients in Canada, Mexico, Panama, Singapore, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, England, and Ireland (to name a few!) and are easily able to correspond using modern technology (with a bit of foresight about time differences). Please note: we currently only work and write in English.

Still have questions? Drop us a line, we'd love to hear from you.

[CONTACT US](#)

Ready to get started? Let us help you with the perfect words for your

App. 302

wedding!

WEDDING
VOWS

WEDDING SPEECH

DIY
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KEEP UP WITH XO JULIET

FIRST NAME

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I'M IN!

CLIENT STORIES



Julianne and Billy

I loved the experience and outcome! The questionnaire was easy and remembering those events made this even more fun. I received my written vows quickly and with such thought- I cried when reading them! The vows written for me were beautifully said and tied in the right amount of humor and sincerity.

– Julianne L.

[Click here to read more testimonials about our vow writing service.](#)

BUY YOUR WEDDING VOWS WITH PRIDE

XO Juliet is the premier wedding vow writing service, and we have written wedding vows for clients across the globe who know what they want to say about their partner, but just aren't sure how to say it. Just like any vendor in the wedding planning process, XO Juliet takes the stress away from this crucial aspect of wedding planning. You tell us about your love story; we'll put it on paper and craft the vows of your dreams.

You can feel comfortable sharing your love story with us. We welcome couples of all genders, races, religions, and sexual identities. Additionally, we uphold the values of self-identification and respect those who are non-binary, gender fluid, transgender, homosexual, bisexual, pansexual, atheistic,

agnostic, or any other type of belief you may place on yourself (no religious affiliation will be asked)

you and will always follow your lead when it comes to how you identify and/or gender yourself and your partner when communicating with us.)

Restrictions do not belong here and heteronormativity has no home at XO Juliet HQ. We pride ourselves in our modern thinking, progressive mission, and desire to welcome and support humans from all walks of life.

AS SEEN ON

BRIDES



A Practical Wedding

4 Reviews

Read Our Reviews
from past clients 4 reviews

5.0/5.0
I had a fantastic experience working with Alexis on both my vows and a wedding hashtag. In the first instance, I was actually feeling... read full review

5.0/5.0
I've never been one to be able to articulate exactly what's on my mind and what I want to express. I was so nervous to write my own vows!... read full review

5.0/5.0
I don't mean to sound stereotypical but I am a guy who had no clue what I was getting into when agreeing to write my vows. I wanted to... read full review

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ITEM 50 00

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SHOP GROOM INSPO



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At XO Juliet we ditch tradition and focus on modern values. No matter who, what, when, where, or how you're marrying your sweetheart, we are here to help. ❤️

140w

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THE VOW WHISPERER





THE VOW WHISPERER

Wedding vows, speeches and toasts are about storytelling. Your story as individuals, a couple, a father, maid of honor, best man. Whether you lead with humor or love, an anecdote or a love note, the words you say on this day will resonate. And what will people remember most? **Authenticity and presentation!**

My overall approach as a **Vow Coach** and **Officiant** is to **orchestrate the spoken word from beginning to end**: The ceremony, the vows, readings, poems, speeches, and toasts. I am a Juilliard-trained actress and public speaker. I will help you craft the perfect words and coach you in delivering the most important performance of your life.

My services are always customized to fit your needs and preferences: In-person, virtual, on-site. all ceremonies are created to reflect the unique personalities, and beliefs of the couple. I can attend rehearsals, and weddings (globally): Last minute run-throughs, preparations, calm the nerves, whatever it takes!

Tanya Pushkine

917-806-6899

Tanya@TheVowWhisperer.com

Writing your vows



THE VOW WHISPERER



- An initial meeting or call to determine your needs
- Meetings in person or virtually
- Sessions to delve into the relationship, the journey, how you met, anecdotes, memories, promises, etc.
- Go over all components of the ceremony
- Work with you to put pen to paper
- Craft and customize the ceremony
- Source and suggest poems and readings
- Re-write, edit, and review of vows

Saying your vows



- Public speaking and delivery.



THE VOW WHISPERER

- All video calls are recorded so you can review the tips and feedback

Speeches and Toasts



- Assist family and friends with the writing and delivery of tasteful meaningful, and humorous toasts
- Edits and rehearsals, as needed

Officiant services, on-site support





THE VOW WHISPERER

- Officiant services
- Ceremony planning
- My presence the day of, for overall support
- Last minute help with preparations and rehearsals of vows, readings/poems and speeches

Pricing


Some couples just want the basics, others want a more elaborate, customized experience. The pricing structure is flexible to accommodate this.


Contact me

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 **thevowwhisperer** @kateustinn @sarsulsenti you aren't both just gorgeous women, who happen to be gay... what you are to the world are two fearless, unabashedly confident fiancés who are driving a message home of inclusivity, equality, and profound love. •


•
•
We know you are struggling with Kate's family who sadly won't be there to celebrate with you, but you are forging a path of strength and courage that any struggling LGBTQ+ can admire and look up to. You display a hope for all.
Thank you for being so open and sharing your lives with the world... and


   

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OCTOBER 25, 2019



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L'Abbaye-Château de Camon

 **thevowwhisperer** "You don't fall in love with a gender, you fall in love with a person"

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Venue: @chateau_de_camon

Dress (left): @audacieuse.adelaide from @lesrubansdeleopoldine
Model & Makeup: @dianemrt_dmakeup
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Model: @vande_celestine

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Gender Neutral Ceremony Script Script

American Marriage Ministries Wedding Ceremony Script Library

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AMM MINISTERS

This wedding ceremony script was written by AMM. We encourage you to use or modify any wedding ceremony script ideas presented here that inspire you in writing your own ceremony script.

For more guidance, check out our [Officiant Training](#) for to learn how to write a wedding ceremony script, how to fill out a marriage license, and more. We also encourage you to visit our [Weddings by State](#) section for important state-specific information on how to officiate a wedding.

GENDER NEUTRAL CEREMONY SCRIPT

PROCESSIONAL

Beginning of the Wedding Ceremony. Guests are seated followed by the entrance of the Bridal Party.

INVOCATION

Welcome family and friends. We are gathered here today to witness and celebrate the marriage of _____ and _____. This is not the beginning of a new relationship but an acknowledgement of the next chapter in of their lives together. _____ and _____ have spent the few years getting to know each other, and we now join the to bear witness to what their relationship has become. Today, they will affirm this bond formally and publicly. This affirmation means more because it is shared with their most beloved friends and

App. 316

family members. As Proust said, 'Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.' _____ and _____ will mark their transition as a couple not only by celebrating the love between themselves, but by also celebrating the love between all of us – including the love of their parents, siblings, extended family, and best friends. Without that love, today would be far less joyous. Thank you all for being here this afternoon.

_____ and _____ today you not only marry the right person, you also commit to being the right partner, the one with whom the other can stand and face the world. It's finally time to seal this chapter with questions that will lead us into the next chapter.

DECLARATION OF INTENT

Do you _____ take _____ to be your lawfully wedded partner, to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, in good times and not so good times, for richer or poorer, keeping yourself unto him for as long as you both shall live?

Do you _____ take _____ to be your lawfully wedded partner, to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, in good times and not so good times, for richer or poorer, keeping yourself unto him for as long as you both shall live?

RING EXCHANGE

A ring is an unbroken circle, with ends that have been joined together, and it represents your union. It is also a symbol of completeness, just as you two complete each other. It is a symbol of infinity, and of your infinite love. It encircles an opening, which is the door to your future. When you look at these rings on your hands, be reminded of this moment, your commitment, and the love you now feel for each other.

_____ place the ring on _____'s finger and repeat after me:

_____, I give you this ring as a symbol of my love with the pledge to love you today, tomorrow, always, and forever.

And now, _____ place the ring on _____'s finger and repeat after me:

_____, I give you this ring as a symbol of my love with the pledge to love you today, tomorrow, always, and forever.

PRONOUNCEMENT

_____ and _____, before these witnesses you have pledged to be joined in marriage. You have now sealed this pledge with your wedding rings. You may now seal this ceremony with a kiss.

RECESSIONAL

End of the Wedding Ceremony.

For This Joyous Occasion Officiating Services and Seaside Ceremonies

848-333-9948

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Non-Religious Same-Sex Marriage Ceremony Bride/Bride

For This Joyous Occasion non-religious Ceremony

****Presentation of the bride**?** Not everyone includes this; many times the father/escort simply walks the bride down. However if you would like to include this tradition, I have many wording options to choose from-example:

Officiant: Who has the honor of presenting these brides today?

Fathers each take turns responding: Her mother and I do

Greeting:

Officiant:

We gather here today, in the presence of family and friends to join _____ and ____ in matrimony. We celebrate the coming together in love of these women. We remember that marriage is a time when growing love is made public, when two people share mutual promises. We join in our support of them as they offer themselves to each other. We celebrate their joy, their love and their expectations.

*(***If you would like, this is a good place to add a special thank you to friends and family for sharing this happiest of days with you and an acknowledgment of loved ones no longer physically with us, but who's love and support will be felt by the bride and groom always. Maybe you would like to add something personal like how you met etc.. Let me know & I will provide you with wording options***)*

Invocation (this is the beginning prayer or blessing/good wishes on this ceremony)

Officiant:

May you always need one another, not so much to fill the emptiness as to help each other know your fullness. May you want one another, but not out of lack. May you embrace one another, but not encircle one another. May you succeed in all important ways with each other, and not fail in the little graces. Look for things to praise, often say 'I love you' and take no notice of small faults. May you have happiness, and may you find it in making one another happy. May you have love, and may you find it in loving one another.

Charge (the charge is addressed to the couple. It is a preparation for the vows you are about to take):

Officiant:

_____ and _____, the covenant which you are about to make with each other is meant to be a beautiful and sacred expression of your love for each other. As you pledge your vows to each other, and as you commit your lives to each other, we ask that you do so in all seriousness, and yet with a deep sense of joy, with deep conviction that you are committing yourselves to a dynamic growing relationship of trust, mutual support and caring love.

Betrothal/Pledge (this is when you declare your action or intent to marry is a matter of free will)**Let me know if you would like to use full legal first and last names for this part, or just first names. Would you like this to be asked with the response being I DO- or I Will.

Officiant:

To _____: Will you, _____ have _____ to be your wife? Will you love her, comfort and keep her, and forsaking all others remain true to her as long as you both shall live?"

_____ - I will

Officiant:

To _____: Will you, _____, have _____ to be your wife? Will you love her, comfort and keep her, and forsaking all others remain true to her as long as you both shall live?"

_____: I will

Vows:

Officiant: Now that you have declared your intentions, I invite you to share your vows with one another.

Officiant: _____, repeat to _____, after me, these words:

_____, I have chosen you alone from all the world to be my wedded wife.
(_____ says) _____, I have chosen you alone from all the world to be my wedded wife.

have and to hold from this day forward
(says) To have and to hold from this day forward

For better, for worse
(_____ says) For better, for worse;

For richer, for poorer
(_____ says) For richer, for poorer

In sickness and in health,
(_____ says) In sickness and in health,

To love and to cherish 'til death do us part.
(_____ says) To love and to cherish 'til death do us part.

Officiant: _____, repeat to _____, after me, these words:

_____, I have chosen you alone from all the world to be my wedded wife.
(_____ says) _____, I have chosen you alone from all the world to be my wedded wife

To have and to hold from this day forward
(_____ says) To have and to hold from this day forward

For better, for worse
(_____ says) For better, for worse;

For richer, for poorer
(_____ says) For richer, for poorer

In sickness and in health,
(_____ says) In sickness and in health,

To love and to cherish 'til death do us part.
(_____ says) To love and to cherish 'til death do us part.

 AdChoices

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Exchange of rings:

Officiant: May we please have the rings

These rings have no beginning and no end. They set forth the eternal nature of real love. They will represent the love and trust that _____ and _____ promise to each other this day.

To _____: _____ will you take this ring and place it upon _____'s finger, and as you do, repeat to her, after me, these words:

I give you this ring.
(_____ will say): I give you this ring,

As I give you myself,
(_____ will say) as I give you myself,

With love and affection
(_____ will say) with love and affection.

Wear it in peace always
(_____ will say) Wear it in peace always.

To _____: _____ will you take this ring and place it upon _____'s finger, and as you do, repeat to her, after me, these words:

I give you this ring,
(__ says) I give you this ring,

As I give you myself
(__ says) as I give you myself,

With love and affection
(__ says) with love and affection.

Wear it in peace always
(__ says) Wear it in peace always.

*(****If you would like, this is a good place to add a poem, or reading by myself, or maybe a family member or friend. This is also a good place to include an acknowledgment of children that you bring to the marriage, or even an add on ceremony, such as a sand ceremony, unity candle, rose or wine ceremony. Take a look at my collection of poems and readings on my website. I am happy to provide you with additional wording options if you like, just let me know***)*

Blessing: Prayer of blessing/good wishes upon your new marriage (You may use this prayer or I am happy to substitute a favorite prayer or poem of yours or if you would like to write one of your own)

Officiant: (The Day, Author unknown)

May this be the start of a happy new life
That's full of special moments to share
May this be the first of your dreams come true
And of hope that will always be there...
May this be the start of a lifetime of trust
And of caring that's just now begun...
May today be a day that you'll always remember
the day when your hearts become one...

Pronouncement:

Officiant:

Inasmuch as you ____ and you ____ have thus consented in matrimony and have witnessed the same before family and friends, by virtue of the authority vested in me as a Officiant and the laws of this state, I now pronounce you married

You may seal your marriage with a kiss!

Benediction (It brings ceremony to an end. It is another blessing):

Officiant:

May these two find happiness in their matrimony. May they live faithfully together, may they ever remain compassionate. May their years be rich in the joys of life, and their days be long upon the earth.

All wording can be tailored and personalized. Please let me know if you have a preferred pronoun .

Search



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Contact Andrea Purtell, NJ Wedding Officiant For This Joyous Occasion Officiating Services and Seaside Ceremonies 848-333-9948

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Welcoming of the Wedding Guests

Dearly beloved, we have come here today to celebrate love. It is with thoughtfulness and a deep realization of their commitment to each other, that Kyle and James have chosen to stand before you to make this declaration of love and loyalty.

As we gather to share this most important moment in their lives, let us surround them with our love and best wishes for them, their wedding day and their journey in their new life together.

Kyle and James would like to thank you all for being here with them today, and for supporting them through everything that it has taken to make this day a reality. All of the time, and conversations, that you have had with James and Kyle even before they met each other have helped to make them who they needed to be to first find themselves and then...each other

Officiant Address

Kyle and James, you have chosen to be married and this ceremony serves to symbolize the magic of two hearts joining as one. It represents two people in who have found the ultimate gift in one another, that gift being the unconditional love that resides within their hearts for each other. It speaks of passion and fire, of hearth and home, and creates a new light and space within which you both will live.

This wedding ceremony is, by your intent, both a celebration of your love for each other and an exchange of commitments to each other. You two are a good pairing and complement each other. Your enjoyment of life together is more than it is when you are apart. With the love you have for each other, everything is possible.

Moreover, a marriage means that two people have come together. It says and shows that they love each other. There are four things that a marriage should have. They are skill, commitment, trust, and communication. That is the foundation of a successful partnership and this couple has those characteristics.

(Optional) Guest Readings, Sand Pouring or Unity Candle Ceremonies, Religious Passages or other Special Additions to the Ceremony usually go in this section.

Wedding Vows

Now it's time to exchange your vows. You are about to make promises to each other. These vows are beautiful words representing even more beautiful intentions. No other human ties are more tender. No other vows more important than those you are about to pledge. The miracle lies in the path you have chosen to take together, and the true magic of love is the ability to stay the course.

Kyle, do you take this man to be your partner, to share your life openly with him, to love, honor and comfort him, in sickness and in health for all time?

Kyle says "I do."

Kyle, please repeat after me. I, Kyle Ferguson, take you James William Montgomery to be my partner, to stand beside you always, in celebration and sadness, for richer, for poorer, to love and to cherish, for now and forevermore.

James, do you take this man to be your partner, to share in his moments of glory and achievement, to marry your voice to his when it rings out with laughter and to comfort him when he is in pain, for as long as you both shall live?

James says "I do"

James please repeat after me. I, James William Montgomery, take you Andrew Ferguson, to be my partner, to stand beside you always, in celebration and sadness, for richer, for poorer, to love and to cherish, for now and forevermore.

Wedding-Ring Exchange

Marriage is a state in which two people come together and create a union that is greater than the sum of its parts. It is difficult to express in words the profound relationship that is love. Since the beginning of time, the ring has been an emblem of the sincerity and permanence of a couple's love for one another and regard for their marriage. As the circle can begin anew at any point, so a good marriage can pick any point to renew itself. These rings are symbols of your eternal love.

Today however, the giving and receiving of rings symbolizes your love for one another, which like the circle, knows no end.

Kyle, do you have the ring? Please place the ring on James's, finger and repeat after me. Kyle repeats the following verses after wedding officiant: With this ring / I marry you /pledging unto you / my perpetual devotion, / my unwavering fidelity, / and my life. /I take you to be my partner / and promise / to share my life with you, / to speak the truth to you /in love. / I promise to honor / and tenderly care for you /until the end of my days / through the good and bad / no matter what may come.

James, do you have the ring? Place the ring on Kyle's finger and repeat after me. James repeats the following verses after wedding officiant: With this ring / I marry you /pledging unto you / my perpetual devotion, / my unwavering fidelity, / and my life. /I take you to be my partner / and promise / to share my life with you, / to speak the truth to you /in love. / I promise to honor / and tenderly care for you /until the end of my days / through the good and bad / no matter what may come.

Let these rings be a sign that love has substance as well as a soul, a present as well as a past and that love much like that of shapes of your rings, love is a circle of happiness, wonder, and delight.

Wedding Blessing

May this day shine eternally in your lives. May you care for each other in all sadness. May you give cheer and strength to each other. May your life together be a source of inspiration to yourselves, your families, your friends, and to all whose lives you touch.

Pronouncement

Kyle and James, you have come before me here today both expressions your innermost desire to marry one another. You have both come here of your own free will and each of you has both given and received a ring as a token of your promise to each other. Therefore it is with the full recognition, support, and approval of this loving union by the great state of New York. It is with utmost happiness and heartfelt best wishes that I declare you as partners in love for life.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in congratulating the happy couple. As a final blessing, may your marriage to one another be modern enough to deal with these changing times, but traditional enough to last a lifetime. Congratulations!

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~ Same Sex Ceremonies ~

Wahooooo! What a great year it has been so far! This page is a work in progress but I know everyone is looking for wording so here it is! Husband, wife, spouse, lawfully wedded, these are the words that make a marriage legal. Below are the beautiful ways my couples have chosen to engage them!



BEST NIGHT EVER!!!!

Jim and Russel were legally married on stage at Broadway's The Palace Theatre with the cast of Priscilla Queen of the Desert.

It was a magical night for these avid theatre goers and now newly weds.

Russ's Mom: "Tonight I have a new son."

Love Love Love this couple and their family!

~ Jim and Russell ~**~ Opening Words ~**

"Dear family, friends and theater goers, welcome to the marriage of Jim and Russell. What a wonderful sentence that is! They are here today because they have a dream that a generation ago would have seemed outrageous. "Boy... You can't marry a boy, boy!" Here, tonight, on the great white way, where "No you can't" has so many times before become "Oh, yes I can!" Jim and Russell will be legally married.

It has been said that marriage is falling in love over and over again with the same person. How Jim and Russell will continue to accomplish this, that will be up to them, for every marriage is as unique as the people that it joins. Yet the ideals of love, and home and family are as universal as time itself, and the desire to spend a lifetime with the one we love transcends the differences of language and gender, to speak to the very core of what makes us truly human.

Marriage is a promise that says "You will always come first in my life." Jim and Russell, this is an ideal that you have spent the last ten years living by. Yet there are a few insights from tonight's show that we hope you will keep with you on your journey. Always remember that you have people in your life who love you and want to support you. They may not always have all the answers, but go to them anyway, and let them help where they can. Try to always put on your best face for one another! Yet also remember to always make it your truest face... the one you each fell in love with. Sure the bus will break, and a gig or two will flop... But life is a wonderful adventure, to be lived to it's fullest without hesitation or fear of what might be, instead trusting in the inherent goodness of the dream, that through the power of love will become real."

~ Presentation of the Rings ~

"May I have the rings please?"

Officiant is given the rings

Although you each wear only one of them, these rings essentially belong to you both. For they are a symbol of the love you share and the promise that it will be a strong and lasting

love. Through out the years they will speak softly of your vow to grow along with one another, to face the challenges life, to remain one another's first priority and keep your relationship rich and full. They will give you strength and comfort in times of uncertainty and heighten life's joys as you share them Never again do you walk alone for your love will be with you always."

Ring Vows

"Russell, do you take Jim to be your husband,
Do you promise to continue to be loving, affectionate,
faithful, loyal, honest and trustworthy?
For better or worse, for richer or poorer,
in sickness and health,
for as long as you both shall live "

Russell: "I do."

"Will you now place the ring on Jim's finger and repeat after me?"

Russell places the ring half way on to Jim's finger

"I Russell take you Jim to be my husband
I will love you, and honor you,
respect and cherish you
For all the days of my life."

Russell places the ring the rest of the way on to Jim's finger

"Jim, do you take Russell to be your husband,
Do you promise to continue to be loving, affectionate,
faithful, loyal, honest and trustworthy?
For better or worse, for richer or poorer,
in sickness and health,
for as long as you both shall live?"

Jim: "I do."

"Will you now place the ring on your Russell's finger and repeat after me "

Jim places the ring half way onto Russell's finger

"I Jim take you Russell to be my husband.
I will love you, and honor you,
respect and cherish you
For all the days of my life."

Jim places the ring the rest of the way onto Russell's finger

~ Pronouncement of Marriage ~

"The two of you have been flying in for your theatre getaways for many years and I am overjoyed that New York, Broadway, and "Priscilla Queen of the Desert" have this opportunity to embrace you in return.

It is my honor and privilege to now pronounce you Legally Married Partners in Life, Love, and all things.

You may seal your promises with a kiss!"

Couple kiss and greet their guests as newlyweds!

PRISCILLA's First-Ever Onstage Wedding!



~ Justice Kennedy's Remarks~

"To paraphrase Justice Kennedy's reflections on the ancient and time honored custom of marriage; 'No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than they once were. Marriage embodies a love that may endure even past death. The nature of marriage is that, through its enduring bond, two persons together

can find other freedoms, such as expression, intimacy, and spirituality. This is true for all persons. There is dignity in the bond between all human beings who seek to marry and in their autonomy to make such profound choices. Marriage responds to the universal fear that a lonely person might call out only to find no one there. It offers the hope of companionship and understanding and assurance that while both still live there will be someone to care for the other.!"



After three decades of Loving, Caring, Committed Relationship, **Barbara and Marie** were married at the **Westbury Manor!**

~ Marie and Barbara ~

~ Opening Words ~

"Marie and Barbara have been together for 30 wonderful years and consider this marriage ceremony a reaffirmation of their lifetime commitment to one another.

They feel very blessed that each one of you are here to share in this history-making event with them, as 30 years ago this was not an option for them to consider. Yet, first with a foundation of friendship, then trust, then great love, spiritual guidance and the support of their families, they came together as a couple and have grown and function as one; each supporting the other when necessary and each consoling the other when needed.

When asked of them – What they think makes for a 30 year successful relationship? They replied: Never take one another for granted. Be thoughtful and courteous to one another.

When asked what they love most about one another, and their relationship, Marie said how fortunate she feels to have found Barbara, someone to look to for guidance and decision

making. Barbara is her provider, protector, her rock and the anchor to Marie's universe.

Barbara is logical, patient, gentle, generous, and non-judgmental.

And Barbara feels she is extremely lucky to have Marie in her life. Marie is her foundation, keeps Barbara grounded, organized and on track, she is a wonderful homemaker and brings peace and serenity and offers comfort to the hectic world outside. Marie is beautiful, loving, caring, generous and kind. She is the ultimate family nurturer.

From the earliest days of their relationship, Marie and Barbara have shared an undeniable connection. There has never been any hesitation, as the natural progression of their love kept them strong and steadfast in life's journey together.

Their strengths and their differences complement each other so well that it has added a sense of balance to their lives. They know what is important to them and the well being of their relationship. They are committed not only to one another, but also to the quality of life that they share.

Dinners together, Sunday afternoon cocktails and playing backgammon, a loving, accepting and supportive atmosphere in their home, communication that goes beyond words to understand not only what is said but what is meant, all guided by loyalty, love, truth and trust. These are all too precious to ever let fall by the wayside.

They both feel they have found their soul mate in one another, someone to rely on for all the love, joy and sadness the world throws at them. They are the forever love to each other.

Today is a public acknowledgement of all that you are to each other. Seemingly your relationship will be as it has always been, yet there is a power in the spoken word. May that power bring you all the warmth and closeness, security and comfort, joy and happiness that this world has to offer."

~ Hand Ceremony ~

"A hand blessing is a ritual that is meant to draw you closer to one another. It has been said that the hands are a connection to the heart, and a hand blessing symbolically brings two hearts together.

Shakespeare said, "Now join your hands, and with your hands your hearts." So please now face each other. First join your right palms, and then your left palms. This forms an infinity symbol with your hands, which symbolizes a love that will go on forever. Please look into one another's eyes.

These are the hands of your best friend
They are holding yours on your wedding day as you
promise to love each other today, tomorrow and forever.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours
as together you continue to build your future.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years,
and with the slightest touch will comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that will hold you when fear
or grief engulfs your heart.

These are the hands that will give you strength
when you need it.

May these hands always reach out with love,
tenderness and respect.

May these hands continue to build a loving relationship that lasts a lifetime.

May these hands be blessed this day.

May they always hold each other.

May they have the strength to hang on during the
storms of stress and the dark of disillusionment.

May they remain tender and gentle as they nurture
each other in their wondrous love.

May they continue to build a relationship founded in love,
and rich in caring.

May these hands be healer, protector, shelter and
guide for each other – always.

With eyes locked, and hands linked, this ritual is a beautiful symbol of the union of two
hearts, two lives, and two souls.”

~ Presentation of the Rings ~

“The ring finger on the left hand, beside the side of the body that holds the heart, has long been used for the wedding band, because for centuries people believe that there was a vein that ran directly from that finger to the heart. And they believe that the words spoken during the placing of the band was the symbol of perfection and completion and eternity, that those words would resonate over and over again like the circumference of the band itself, into the heart and soul, and would be the biggest promise that you could ever make, a promise to spend a lifetime together.

May I have the rings please?

Officiant is given the rings

These wedding bands are a symbol of eternity, with no beginning and no end, they are a visible and constant reminder of the vows you make to each other today to be together for

as long as you both shall live. You give each other these rings to wear with love and joy and although you will each wear only one ring, these rings will essentially belong to you both. They are meant to serve as a physical reminder of the feelings that you have in your hearts at this very moment, and the promise that yours will be a long and lasting love. As these rings have no end, neither shall your love for one another.”

~ Ring Vows ~

“No other human ties are more tender and no other vows more important than those you are about to pledge.

Barbara, do you take Marie to be your lawfully wedded wife,
do you vow to love her and care for her,
for as long as you both shall live.
Do you accept her with all of her faults
and all of her strengths and offer yourself to her,
with all of your own faults and strengths.
Do you promise to love her faithfully through tears and laughter,
sickness and health, work and play, now and forever.
Do you promise to be a respectful and
loving companion and always put the vows
that you made this day above all else?”

Barbara: “I do.”

“Will you now place the ring on your beloved’s finger
and repeat after me?”

Barbara places the ring half way on to Marie’s finger

“With this ring, I thee wed.
And giving it,
I give you all my life,
All that I am,
All that I have,
And all that I will become;
From this day and forevermore,
I choose you to be my lifetime companion.”

Barbara places the ring fully on to Marie’s finger

“Marie, do you take Barbara to be your lawfully wedded spouse,
do you vow to love her and care for her,
for as long as you both shall live.
Do you accept her with all of her faults
and all of her strengths and offer yourself to her,

with all of your own faults and strengths.
Do you promise to love her faithfully through tears and laughter,
sickness and health, work and play, now and forever.
Do you promise to be a respectful and
loving companion and always put the vows
that you made this day above all else?"

Marie: "I do."

"Will you now place the ring on your beloved's finger
and repeat after me?"

Marie places the ring half way on to Barbara's finger

"With this ring, I thee wed.
And giving it,
I give you all my life,
All that I am,
All that I have,
And all that I will become;
From this day and forevermore,
I choose you to be my lifetime companion."

Marie places the ring fully on to Barbara's finger

"As you look to your hand and your wedding band throughout the years, it will speak softly of the great gift you have been given in one another and may it be a reminder of this moment, that you have someone to face the challenges of life with, who loves you more than anything else in the whole world, never again do you walk alone, for your love shall be with you always. For you, Marie and Barbara, your rings specifically represent the resiliency of your relationship with the brilliant stones, and the three round stones signify the three decades of faithfulness, friendship and love that have flourished throughout your shared journey of life."

~ Pronouncement of Marriage ~

"Having witnessed your marriage vows, with all who are assembled here today and by the authority vested in me by the State of New York, it is with great joy, that I now pronounce you united legally married, spouses for life.

You may now kiss your spouse."

Couple kiss

~ Signing of The Marriage License ~

“Ginger and Jeanne, you have been asked to act as witnesses for Marie and Barbara. This is an honor that they wished to bestow upon you. You have both shared with them the ups and downs that life has brought, celebrated their joys and comforted them through their sorrows. And yet in the signing of their marriage license a tangible piece of you shall be with them always, to match the feelings they hold for you in their hearts. Will you please join us for the signing of the license?”

Couple step to behind the table where they are joined by Ginger and Jeanne. Marriage license is signed.



*Marie and Barbara's ceremony has been very popular this year. See how **Brian and Steve**, who were also married at *Westbury Manor*, used it as a base and then made it their own in the video by *Capture the Moment Productions* below.*



Ceremony by Pastor April Gismondi

from **CTM Highlight Reels**

15:02



Ceremony by Pastor April Gismondi from CTM Highlight Reels on Vimeo.





~ Jennifer & Elaina ~

“Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to celebrate the marriage of Jennifer and Elaina. They feel very blessed that each one of you are here to share in the celebration of their marriage. Years ago this was not an option for them to even consider, and they would never have believed the amount of love and acceptance that their love would receive. Yet, although the world has changed, the ideals of love and home and family remain as timeless as the desire to protect and care for the one that we love... the one that we choose to call our own and hold above all others for a lifetime. As untraditional as Jennifer and Elaina may seem at a glance, our brides share some very traditional values. They believe that the promise of marriage is a sacred vow, a promise of the heart that is made for a lifetime.

In lieu of an opening reading, I would like to share with you just a few words written by Tim Keller:

“When over the years someone has seen you at your worst, and knows you with all your strengths and flaws, yet commits them self to you wholly, it is a consummate experience. To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything. It liberates us from pretense, humbles us out of our self-righteousness, and fortifies us for any difficulty life can throw at us.”

To have this kind of love from one another and from all of you, is a gift beyond compare in today's world.

Marriage is a promise that says “You will always come first in my life.” This is an ideal that Jennifer and Elaina already live by. Yet there is something about being able to make their promises of love and faithfulness publicly that truly makes their marriage real, and brings them more joy than words can express. So I will ask you now if you are prepared to make these promises.

Jennifer, Have you come here today of your own free will to take Elaina to be your wife, that you may live together as equal partners sharing all that life has to offer?”

Jennifer: "I have."

"Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her all the days of your life?"

Jennifer: "I will."

"Elaina, Have you come here today of your own free will to take Jennifer to be your wife, that you may live together as equal partners sharing all that life has to offer?"

Elaina: "I have."

"Will you love her comfort her, honor and keep her all the days of your life?"

Elaina: "I will."

"Living by these promises that you make today, may your lives together be blessed with love and laughter, wisdom and wonder"

~ Welcoming of the Guests ~

"It is not often enough in today's world that we have the opportunity to gather all those who mean the most to us together in one place. Therefore, Jennifer and Elaina would like to thank you all for taking the time and making the journey and for all the preparations that were made on their behalf to ensure that they were surrounded by the love of family and friends as they made their marriage vows. To have all of you here with them... All of you who have a lifetime of even emotional investment in Jennifer and Elaina and their happiness... All of you whom they love most in this world... There are no words of appreciation and gratitude great enough to let you know how much your love and support means to Jennifer and Elaina. Many of you were there with them when they met as teenagers and have come a long way in the evolution of your own feelings as their love has grown. The fact that they know you have all come to the place where you are almost as happy to be here as they are themselves this means the world to Jennifer and Elaina. They thank you for your presence here today, and for being there for them through all the days that it has taken to make this one a reality."

~ Jennifer and Elaina ~

"As many of you know Jennifer and Elaina have known one another for almost all of their lives. In their time together and in the years before their families have also gotten to know one another. As Jennifer described it "we are a big part of one another's history, and the one person we had each held onto in our hearts for our entire lives". The road hasn't always been easy for them, but life is not a destination. It is a journey that has now come full circle, returning Jennifer and Elaina to where they began when they shared their first kiss at the tender ages of 15 and 17. For them it was that same crazy, excited, wonderful, scary, yet comfortable in so many ways... feeling that was familiar and somehow new. It was never Jennifer and Elaina love for one another that was in question... But how their love would

affect the people that they cared for the most, their families, and so they went their own ways for a time. In imagining what their lives would have been like had they been together ever since the beginning, there is a sense of appreciation for the opportunity that they were each given to learn and grow on their own and to in essence become the people that they needed to be to have the kind of relationship that they now share. It has been said that a good relationship makes two people the best possible version of themselves that they can be. And this is the place that their past and their present have brought Jennifer and Elaina to in their lives.

When asked what they love most about one another and their relationship Elaina began by saying that Jennifer is very smart, with the strength of character to live her life genuinely.

Elaina admires the way that Jennifer always thinks before she speaks and the selfless quality that shows how much she cares about the people in her life. When Jennifer loves, she loves with all of her heart and Elaina is honored to be one of those few lucky people who know what a great feeling it is to be loved by her. Jennifer is passionate and exuberant, she loves markers and glitter, and lives a life that in word and deed is as bright and wonderful as the cards she makes. To be the one whose voice Jennifer has chosen as the voice she will hear every day from now until forever is to Elaina truly a gift and a blessing.

Jennifer began her turn in admiration of Elaina's drive, ambition, and her strength. Once she has set her mind to a goal there is nothing beyond her reach. Elaina is the one who supplies their relationship with a firm foundation. She is the architect of their future and it's protector. Jennifer appreciates how hard Elaina is willing to work to make all of their dreams a reality. Jennifer has always found Elaina "fascinating". She loves how smart and funny she is and the way she can laugh at her own jokes before anyone else. Elaina is straightforward, with her you always know where you stand, and as tough as she can be, Jennifer loves the softer, more vulnerable side, that she alone is privileged to share.

There is a spiritual intimacy that the bond of marriage provides that binds a couple closer than any spoken or written words can. Marriage is being one another's first thought in the morning and in the evenings. Marriage is having the personal integrity to live by the values that they make this day. Marriage is the promise that will create a stable and loving home for their children. And marriage is also a promise to Jennifer and Elaina's parents, a promise that the person they love will always be well cared for."

~ Invocation ~

"Loving God,

We gather today as friends and family of these two beautiful people who shall this day be joined as one. You have given them the gifts of love, family, and dreams of a long and happy life together. May all that they share now deepen and grow through the years. May they continue to find comfort in each other's presence, joy in each other's laughter, and a light in each other's eyes to remind them always of the mystical union of spirit which is the ideal of marriage."

~ Personal Vows ~

“When Jennifer and Elaina’s personal sections were done, they felt that there were a few things missing from their story. Those thoughts were so beautiful and insightful that they have decided to share those words at this time.”

Jennifer speaks her heart

“Elaina, loving you has always felt like a fairytale, but it is so amazing to find that our story has a real happily ever after.

I love hearing the sound of your laugh, feeling the warmth that comes from your smile, and being able to melt from the passion in your touch.

I love how we can speak to each other with our eyes alone.
Some of our best conversations have been said in silence!

You always know what I am thinking before I even have a chance to say it and you always know what I need.

Just a simple hug from you can make everything in life feel perfect.

We are the perfect balance for one another, so much a like yet perfectly different.

I believe that we are true soulmates, nobody in this world could ever love me, treat me, or understand me better than you do.

I love that I am your #1, even before yourself, even before your gum and chapstick.

Elaina, I love how you love me and I love how much I love you. There is no greater happiness for me then to be able to call you MY wife.”

“Elaina will you now tell Jennifer what is in your heart?”

Elaina speaks her heart

“Jennifer, I love that you are your own person.

How you hold such strong values, how you look into my eyes like you are looking straight to my soul.

I love how much you love me. You keep me balanced and I admire how everything you say, you mean from the bottom of your heart.

I love your smile, the way you love life and even your competitive side.

I love how much you love your family and I love listening to how you have grown into the beautiful woman you are now.

I love how you know me so well and always listen to my every detail.

I love how we reminisce, we laugh together then cry together then laugh that we are both crying.

I love looking back at all of our memories and knowing how much we have grown together. I am so excited to have you beside me for the rest of our journey through this life.”

~ Presentation of the Rings ~

“May I have the rings please?”

Officiant is given the rings

These beautiful bands are unbroken circles, symbols of eternity, with neither end, nor beginning. They are to remind you not only of the endless love you possess for one another this day, but of the precious gift of trust, honesty and commitment that you place in one another for all of your tomorrows. Jennifer and Elaina, from this day forward you will wear these rings as a sign that no matter where you go and what ever you do, there is someone in this world who loves you more than anything else, who whether near or far is always by your side. May these rings forever shine as a symbol of enduring strength and beauty in a sometimes fragile world.”

~ Ring Vows ~

“Elaina do you give yourself to Jennifer in marriage
To love her as your wife and best friend from this day forward.
Do you promise to encourage and inspire her,
and to comfort her in times of sorrow and struggle.
Do you promise to love her in good times and in bad,
when life seems easy and when it seems hard,
when your love is simple, and when it is an effort.
Do you promise to cherish her, and to always hold her
in highest regard, today and for all the days of your life?”

Elaina: “I do.”

“Will you now place the ring on your beloved’s finger and repeat after me?”

Elaina places the ring half way on to Jennifer’s finger

“You are my life, my love, and my best friend.
All that I am, All that I do,
All that I dream shall be ours together.
Let this ring be a reminder to you of how much I love you,
Not only on this precious day,
But every single day of my life.

Jennifer, I love you, I respect you,
and I am truly honored to make you my wife."

Elaina places the ring the rest of the way on to Jennifer's finger

"Jennifer, do you give yourself to Elaina in marriage
To love her as your wife and best friend from this day forward.

Do you promise to encourage and inspire her,
and to comfort her in times of sorrow and struggle.

Do you promise to love her in good times and in bad,
when life seems easy and when it seems hard,
when your love is simple, and when it is an effort.

Do you promise to cherish her, and to always hold her
in highest regard, today and for all the days of your life?"

Jennifer: "I do."

"Will you now place the ring on your beloved's finger and repeat after me?"

Jennifer places the ring half way onto Elaina's finger

"You are my life, my love, and my best friend.

All that I am, All that I do,

All that I dream shall be ours together.

Let this ring be a reminder to you of how much I love you,

Not only on this precious day,

But every single day of my life.

Elaina, I love you, I respect you,
and I am truly honored to make you my wife."

Jennifer places the ring the rest of the way onto Elaina's finger

~ Pronouncement of Marriage ~

"Jennifer and Elaina, we hope that you will share the joy, peace, and rewards of a good marriage. Love each other with constancy, live joyously and laugh freely. Share with each other the great and small moments in life, for each moment is unique and irreplaceable. Remember always to be each other's best friend and to keep your hands and your hearts forever reaching for one another.

It is my honor and privilege to pronounce you Legally Married! You may both kiss your beautiful Bride!

couple kiss and exit to greet their guests!



>



I Love this picture! **Thomas and Anthony** captioned it "Doesn't my Husband have the cutest Husband!" photo thanks to "LIAffordablephoto.com"

~ From Thomas & Anthony's ceremony ~

"This is such an exciting day and time that we live in. Tom and Anthony consider themselves very lucky that New York is a place where we are able to celebrate that love is love and a lifetime commitment is the greatest promise that two people can ever make. Knowing that someone will always be there for you and that you will be there for that person, that through the power and strength of love both partners will become better people... this has been the ideal of marriage for every generation that has ever lived."





~ Stephanie and Corrine ~

“As many of you know Stephanie and Corrine have been together for four and a half years and have known one another for almost twice that long. From the very beginning of their friendship there was a feeling that was more like remembering than meeting one another. They were and are best friends, who share a spiritual connection so strong that falling in love was inevitable. They knew, without reservation, that together was the only right and true way for them to proceed into their future. Their romance came in a “whirlwind” and brought with it a feeling that everything was falling flawlessly into place.



~ Jim and Fernando ~

"Jim and Fernando wanted to include something in their ceremony that would be a representation of how they see their joining together. Ecclesiastes tells us "A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart." In marriage two people join together as individuals, accepting that from this day forward they are joined by something larger than themselves. Some call this God's love that joins them, others call it their shared commitment to protect the spiritual intimacy of their relationship. Either way it is a sacred trust and an interweaving of spirit that is promised for a lifetime. Jim and Fernando have chosen to use three strands of cord that they will now work together to braid into a single cord transforming them into something better. Stronger and more beautiful than any of the cords alone.

Music begins

Jim and Fernando take the cords

Jim holds the loop while Fernando braids the cords

Fernando then fastens the cords together

Music concludes

May your marriage be blessed with patience, love and understanding, with a playful and lively spirit that shows your joy in life and your love for one another and may you continue to be best friends, better together than either of you are apart."



~ Michelle & Janice ~

Michelle & Janice My Hamptons ladies!!!! They came all the way from the mid-west to be married here on the beautiful beaches of Long Island. Photo thanks to

"LIAffordablephoto.com"



Frank & Jesse – They came all the way from California, rented a beach house, gathered their family and friends and were legally married. The out pouring of love and support since New York legalized same sex marriage has been amazingly beautiful.





~ Katelyn & Colleen ~

~ Opening Words ~

photo credit to the amazing Jessica Nelson of *Capture The Moment*

"Welcome family and friends, we are gathered here today to celebrate the marriage of Colleen and Katelyn. There has been such an overwhelming feeling of gratitude and joy as Colleen and Katelyn spoke of this day.

We are all here to not only witness as observers, but to be emotionally present and share in the joy that Colleen and Katelyn are feeling at this moment. The only thing happening right now, is all of us being physically, intellectually, spiritually, and joyfully present with them, in the here and now, to celebrate the beginnings of what we know will be an inspiring marriage.

Although the world has changed, the ideals of love and home and family remain as timeless as the desire to protect and care for the one that we love... the one that we choose to call

our own and hold above all others for a lifetime. As untraditional as Colleen and Katelyn may seem at a glance, our brides share some very traditional values. They believe that the promise of marriage is a sacred vow, a promise of the heart that is made for a lifetime.

There is a spiritual intimacy that the bond of marriage provides that binds a couple closer than any spoken or written words can. Marriage is being one another's first thought in the morning and in the evenings. Marriage is having the personal integrity to live by the values that they make this day. Marriage is the promise that will create a stable and loving home for their children. And marriage is also a promise to Colleen and Katelyn's parents, a promise that the person they love will always be well cared for."

~ Welcoming of the Guests ~

"Colleen and Katelyn would like to thank you all for taking the time and making the journey and for all the preparations that were made on their behalf to ensure that they were surrounded by the love of family and friends as they made their marriage vows. With such an intimate gathering, there can be no doubt that all of you are the most important people in Katelyn and Colleen's life. They described you as being a wonderful blending of traditional and outrageous, fun loving, supportive, and accepting. You are those who are ever present in all of their favorite memories and those with whom they wanted to share this most special of all days

Colleen and Katelyn, as you look out now, upon your guests, know that each one of them is here today, for no other reason than to show you how much they love you, and to show their support. Know that you are a vital part of this community and that your happiness is essential to that of your parents and all who love you. These are the people with whom you share the story of your lives. It is a story that will continue to be written moment by moment through every day of the future that you will all share together as one family "

~ Katelyn and Colleen ~

"As many of you know Katelyn and Colleen have been together for five years. They had gone to the same high school and share a sense of history that began long before their thoughts would ever turn to romance. For them it was the bonds of friendship that grew first. They were there for one another to lean on and to confide in in difficult times. They were also the first person that they wanted to bring all their good news to. It has been said that "it is only Love, when someone else and their happiness is more important than your own" This is the way in which Katelyn and Colleen had come together spiritually and emotionally, long before they became a couple. Being together seems like the most natural thing in the world for them. Yet the adjustments that needed to be made to step into the future together... they were difficult. But the rewards are more than worth the effort. They are one another's calm amid the craziness of our modern world, one another's source of inspiration, best friend and greatest love.

To further express what love, their relationship and the journey of marriage mean from their perspective, Colleen and Katelyn have chosen to share with you these words, from the Honorable Robert Nesta Marley, or as he is better know Bob Marley.

‘Only once in your life, I truly believe, you find someone who can completely turn your world around.

You tell them things that you’ve never shared with another soul and they absorb everything you say and actually want to hear more.

You share hopes for the future, dreams that may never come true, goals that may never be reached. You share the many disappointments that life throws at you.

When something wonderful happens, you can’t wait to tell them about it, knowing they will share in your excitement.

They are not embarrassed to cry with you when you are hurting or laugh with you when you are being silly.

Never do they hurt your feelings or make you feel like you are not good enough, but rather they build you up and show you the things about yourself that make you special and even beautiful.

There is never any pressure, jealousy or competition but only a quiet calmness when they are around. You can be yourself and not worry about what they will think of you because they love you for who you are.

The things that seem insignificant to most people such as a note, song or walk become invaluable treasures kept safe in your heart to cherish forever.

Memories of your childhood come back and are so clear and vivid it’s like being young again. Colors seem brighter and more brilliant.

Laughter seems part of daily life now where before it was infrequent or didn’t exist at all. A phone call or two during the day always brings a smile to your face.

There’s no need for continuous conversation you find you’re quite content in just having them nearby.

Things that never interested you before become fascinating because you know they are important to this person who is so special to you.

You think of this person on every occasion and in everything you do. Simple things bring them to mind like a pale blue sky, gentle wind or even a storm cloud on the horizon.

You open your heart knowing that there’s a chance it may be broken one day but in opening your heart, you experience a love and joy that you never dreamed possible.

You find that being vulnerable is the only way to allow your heart to feel true pleasure that's so real it scares you.

You find strength in knowing you have a true friend and possibly a soul mate who will remain loyal to the end. Life seems completely different, exciting and worthwhile.

Your only hope and security is in knowing that they are a part of your life.'

Finding this person is difficult, but once you have there is no other way to proceed into all of your tomorrows except together. Colleen and Katelyn, this is the wonderful place that you have come to. May the promises you make this day lead you through a lifetime of happiness."

~ Invocation ~

"Colleen and Katelyn
come before us today with precious gifts,
Their Love, their Faith in each other,
The support of this beautiful community,
And their trust in many bright tomorrows.
Let us each pray in our own way
that they may find life's deepest meaning.
And richest happiness.
That blessings shall forever continue to shine upon them,
Granting them prosperity and abundance,
Health and happiness, joy and peace
In both the physical and spiritual world
For all the days of their journey."

~ Presentation of the Rings ~

"May I have the rings please?

officiant is given the rings

"These beautiful rings are meant to serve as a physical reminder of the feeling you have in your hearts at this very moment. There are times in life that we tend to focus the things we have not yet accomplished, there will also be times of sorrow and loss. Yet as you look to your hand and your wedding band, it will softly speak of the great gift that you have been given and all that you have in one another. It shall also be a reminder in the times of great joy, that you have someone to share it with. Never again do you walk alone for your love shall be with you always."

~ Ring Vows ~

“Colleen do you give yourself to Katelyn in marriage
To love her as your wife and best friend
from this day forward.

Do you promise to encourage and inspire her,
and to comfort her in times of sorrow and struggle.
Do you promise to love her in good times and in bad,
when life seems easy and when it seems hard,
when your love is simple, and when it is an effort.

Do you promise to cherish her,
and to always hold her in highest regard
Today and for all the days of your life?”

Colleen: “I do.”

“Will you now place the ring on your beloved’s finger and repeat after me?”

Colleen places the ring half way on to Katelyn’s finger

“Katelyn, you are my life, my love, my best friend,
And with this ring, I thee wed.

May it be a reminder of how much I love you,
Not only on this precious day,
But every single day of my life.”

Colleen places the ring the rest of the way on to Katelyn’s finger

“Katelyn, do you give yourself to Colleen in marriage
To love her as your wife and best friend
from this day forward.

Do you promise to encourage and inspire her,
and to comfort her in times of sorrow and struggle.
Do you promise to love her in good times and in bad,
when life seems easy and when it seems hard,
when your love is simple, and when it is an effort.

Do you promise to cherish her,
and to always hold her in highest regard
Today and for all the days of your life?”

Katelyn: “I do.”

“Will you now place the ring on your beloved’s finger and repeat after me?”

Katelyn places the ring half way onto Colleen’s finger

“Colleen, you are my life, my love, my best friend,
And with this ring, I thee wed.

May it be a reminder of how much I love you,
Not only on this precious day,
But every single day of my life."

Katelyn places the ring the rest of the way onto Colleen's finger

~ Pronouncement of Marriage ~

"Lao Tzu wrote; "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Today you have taken the first step into all of your tomorrows. May they be shared in love and laughter, wisdom and wonder.

It is my honor and privilege to pronounce you Legally Married!
You may both kiss your beautiful Bride!"

Couple kiss and exit to greet their guests!



~ Marie and Leslie ~

~ Opening Words ~

"Dearly beloved, we are gathered here this evening to celebrate the marriage of Marie and Leslie. Tonight is a celebration of love and of life, a celebration not to create a bond or a union, but rather to rejoice in the one that already exists. This marks the continuation of a journey that began almost 38 years ago. It also celebrates Marie and Leslie's commitment to continue nurturing the love between them, and to maintain it as an integral part of their lives. How Marie and Leslie will continue to accomplish this... that will be up to them, for every marriage is as unique as the people that it joins. Yet a hallmark of Marie and Leslie's relationship has always been the way they never forget that when they address one

another, they are each addressing the most important person in the world to them. The common courtesy of saying “please” and “thank you” is not an effort but a natural response for them. Marriage is a promise that says “You will always come first in my life.” This is an ideal that Marie and Leslie already live by, and marriage is simply a way of giving them full and legal recognition for the example they set as two human beings, joined in loving partnership.”

~ Welcoming of the Guests ~

“Marie and Leslie want to thank Jude for opening her home to them and all of you for coming. Tonight’s gathering was planned to be a particularly intimate one, because you are those whom Marie and Leslie love most in the world and those whom they proudly call family. The joy and sense of fulfillment that the title of “grandmother” has brought to their lives is immeasurable. Family are the people with whom we share the story of our lives as it is lived in real time. While they joked about getting married because they were bowing to peer pressure to make honest women out of one another, there is something very special about having you all here with them to witness a moment they never thought would happen in their lifetime. They are so grateful for all of your love and support, for the place you have given them in your hearts and the place you hold in theirs. And of course, as everyone will agree.... Their wedding just wouldn’t be the same without their fur child Wendy!”

~ Marie and Leslie ~

“The years that Marie and Leslie have spent in a loving, committed relationship is quite an accomplishment in today’s world. They first met in 1974. It was the heyday of the Women’s Movement, and Marie and Leslie each found herself drawn to the Gay Women’s Alternative, which met in the basement of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Central Park West in Manhattan. G.W.A.- or, as Marie called it, “Gwaaa” – was a place where women could meet, listen to a broad range of speakers from the arts and public affairs, including, among others, Bella Abzug and Gloria Steinem, and then talk, nosh, and connect with one another on more than the superficial level that the clubs offered. Both they and the world have changed since then. It has been quite a journey, but what hasn’t changed is the way they love and care for one another. Although, like all couples they do disagree on occasion, their love and respect for one another are ever present. Through wonderful and difficult times their support for one another has never wavered. Marie and Leslie have two different approaches to life. They describe it as being similar to the way they speak. Marie speaks like graffiti, bold and colorful, right out there, and Leslie speaks clearly and concisely in fully formed paragraphs. Together, they are simply better than either could be alone.

Marie wrote a little about what this day means to them and Leslie said “ditto” so I would like to share those words with you now.

For us, this ceremony is a way of acknowledging and celebrating our partnership of 37 plus years. Tonight, it will be, to be precise, 37 years, 6 months, and 7 days.

It hasn't always been easy for either of us. We come from different worlds. Leslie grew up in the heart of America, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her family tended, most of the time, to be quiet, polite, and they didn't interrupt each other. I grew up in Queens, New York, as a member of a large, loud and extended Italian family, in which it was normal for everyone to talk at the same time – in two languages – and to interrupt each other as a matter of course. Often times in an excitable and operatic manner.

Our unlikely partnership has enriched us both in many ways – literally and figuratively. But what we most value in our years of living together is that they have enabled us, in our mixed attempts, to become better human beings. And, we can't think of anything that matters more to us – God or no God – than that. It's fair to say that we've helped each other grow.

And finally, for whatever time we have left, each of us wants to spend it with the other. Which is another way of saying: "I do."

~ Vows ~

"Will Marie and Leslie and their Best Men, James and Patrick, please stand.

This is usually where I would ask for the rings. But Marie and Leslie have chosen not to take them off in order to exchange them once again. Their rings were purchased at 'Wedding Rings of Greenwich Village' in the late 1970's and they have been wearing them ever since. Their initials, which were originally engraved on the inside of the bands, have worn off with time. Yet there is still wonderful symbolism there, because for centuries people believed that words which were worn against the skin, would sink into the very fabric of the wearer's being, and become a part of who and what they are. May your rings remind you of how far you have come and of how wondrous the journey ahead will be as you share it.

“Leslie, do you take Marie
to be your lawfully wedded partner,
To have and to hold from this day forward,
For better or for worse,
For richer or for poorer,
In sickness and in health,
To love and to cherish
Until death do you part?”

Leslie: "I do."

"Please take Marie's hand and repeat after me..."

Leslie takes Marie's hand

"Marie, I will continue to love you, and honor you,
put up with you, as you put up with me,
respect and cherish you,
For all the days of my life."

"Marie, do you take Leslie
to be your lawfully wedded partner,
To have and to hold from this day forward,
For better or for worse,
For richer or for poorer,
In sickness and in health,
To love and to cherish
Until death do you part?"

Marie: "I do."

"Please take Leslie's hand and repeat after me..."

Marie takes Leslie's hand

"Leslie, I will continue to love you, and honor you,
put up with you, as you put up with me,
respect and cherish you,
For all the days of my life."

~ Pronouncement of Marriage ~

"As longevity runs in both families with both of your paternal grandmothers living past 100, even after almost 38 years together, I think there is still room to wish you both a long and happy marriage. And so, by the authority vested in me by the State of New York, it is my honor and privilege to pronounce you Legally Married! You may seal your promises with a kiss!"





Days after New York State issued it's first Same Sex Marriage License, I had the honor of being with **Richard and Robert** as they celebrated 30 years of loving and caring for one another by becoming legally married.

Congratulations to you both!

I can't wait to do it all over again next year!

Rev. Marie April Gismondi,

I want to thank you so very much for the beautiful wedding ceremony you performed for Bob & I. This bonding meant so much to us & the choice of the right person to perform our wedding ceremony was every bit as important as our entering into this the beginning of this chapter of our lives. We couldn't possibly love each other more than we already did but somehow the ceremony of marriage makes our lives and our love more complete. There will always be those that will look down on us for our choice but we are finding there is more acceptance & understanding than we expected. I am attaching the few photos that we took & truly look forward to the renewing of our vows for our first anniversary next year. And we look forward to you performing the renewal service. You made our very special day even more special just by being the wonderful, caring person you are.

Sincerely, Richie & Bob



Click on the Church Banner to email me or Call

516-785-4191

Anytime!



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Ceremonies of the Heart
Reverend Deb Viola, LCSW: 515-597-2400

Select Page



Same Sex Spiritual Ceremony



Convocation:

Welcome! We are gathered here today to share in a celebration of love, and to join together forever the hearts of Donna and Karen. Today in the presence of their friends, Donna and Karen will join their lives together, two beautiful spirits sharing the most sacred and tender of human relationships. They have invited us all here today to rejoice, celebrate and bear witness to this sacred union. They stand before you bound by their love for each other, and the desire to share this expression of their love with you and with the world. We, their families and friends, form a community of love that together we may support and encourage them with our abundance of prayers and blessings on this day and for all of their lives.

Invocation:

At this time I ask that you all join me in a wish and blessing for Donna and Karen, as they begin the journey on their path of togetherness.

Our hope and wish for Donna and Karen is a long and loving lifetime of joy, peace and happiness. May their unconditional love, compassion and caring for each other continue to be the strength that they will hold fast to for all their days together.

1st Reading: Read by?(Reading are a nice way of including someone in the ceremony. Readings can be done by family members, friends, etc.)

Address:

"From this day forward,
You shall not walk alone.
My heart will be your shelter,
And my arms will be your home".

Donna and Karen have found the gift of love in each other, they have found in one another other that special person who provides them with peace, love and comfort



and who will support each other and share all of life. They have created a love that is simple, effortless, and real, a love which allows them to truly be themselves; they accept all parts of each other with unconditional love and understanding.

Donna and Karen's journey began when they met through a mutual friend. (Here we can add your story of how you met) They both right away felt the tug and force of their connection, a feeling they had never felt before and they became fast friends. Their connection eventually evolved to dating and they have been together inseparable ever since.



Donna and Karen got engaged (here we can add your proposal story)

It has been a 4 years and Donna and Karen's are both so happy to have found each other and how wonderful they are together. Their connection has always been so strong and they cherish their relationship; how easy it is and how much it allows them both to grow. They support each other and encourage each other through everything that life brings! Over the years their

relationship has evolved through all the joys, challenges and changes of life into this beautiful and loving partnership that you see here before you today!

Karen and Donna have invited you here today because you are their dearest family and friends. We come together also as the joining of two families. One of the things that Karen and Donna have impressed upon me is how important their individual families are to them, and the shared values that they carry with them into this union. All of you are those closest to them and you have contributed to who they are, and you will continue to have important influence in their lives in the years to come. Friends and family here today remind them of landmarks in their lives – good and bad, easy and tough – all that you have shared with them leading up to this great day. Your presence with us today is essential and our couple wish to express and honor the important role that you all play in their lives not just today but every day, and they

would like to send out their heartfelt thanks to their families and friends for their continued love, support, and encouragement throughout their lives.

Within their relationship Donna and Karen have grown together, and they complement and balance each other perfectly. They have a lot of things in common and are alike in many ways. They share everything and support and encourage each other no matter what life brings. Throughout their relationship they had learned that communication, patience, understanding, passion, and laughter were vital to their relationship. But holds all this together the core of their relationship is the strong love that they have for each other. A



love that for each of them comes in many wonderful and amazing ways;

For Karen, Donna is her love, and her support. Donna is beautiful, kind, considerate and generous. Karen loves Donna's beautiful eyes, and how she loves her unconditionally; she is always there to support her, motivate her and encourage her. She loves Donna's kind and giving nature; she always goes above and beyond for her and the people she loves in her life. Karen adores Donna's sense of humor and how she can always make her laugh. Donna is her best friend; she is her family, and she makes her happy everyday! Karen truly respects and loves the person that Donna is, and she is the one she wants to spend the rest of her life with!

For Donna, Karen is her love, her support and her strength. Karen is supportive, genuine, giving and always puts herself out for everyone. She adores Karen's smiling eyes and her adventurous nature. Donna loves her sense of humor; how she can always make her laugh and can turn around any bad day. She loves how easy it is to love Karen; she understands her and really gets her. Karen loves her and accepts her for who she is and lets her be herself. With Karen she always feels supported, comforted, and encouraged! She knows her and understands her like no one else and

she accepts her for who she is! She is her love and her life and she couldn't imagine her life without her!



Together they are like two peas in a pod! Donna and Karen have fun no matter what they are doing; whether it is sharing their love of the beach, boating and nature or spending time with family and friends, as long as they are together they are happy and content!! Together they have generous and caring spirits, a love of their families, and a mutual respect, love and commitment to each

other that is immeasurable.

Donna and Karen you have established the gift of love and over the years have held fast to the beliefs and strengths that you share as a couple that have carried you to this day. Together both in your true form of inner beauty, and light of genuineness, you feel as you always have, a familiar comfort and understanding in the core of your relationship with each other. A mutual security and nurturance that you experience with that person who is your one true love, your soul mate!

2nd reading: (optional)

Sand Ceremony: with parents

(Already there will be five containers of your choosing on the altar, one empty).

"Donna and Karen, you are about to seal your relationship by the giving and receiving of rings and the exchanging of your vows. This covenant is a pledge between two people who agree that they will commit themselves to one another throughout their lives, to share the rest of your lives together. Within a marriage each person is both their own and each other's. Two individuals choosing to create a new life with endless possibilities and new dreams that are theirs together. Today we also recognize the

significant role that that both families play in such a joining Donna and Karen would like to ask their parents to join them.

This sand that each of your parents have is a symbol of the foundation that you have given Donna and Karen for their lives, a foundation based in love, support, nurturing and care. The sand you will now pour represents this strong foundation of love that will be the base and core of their marriage
(parents pour sand and return to place)

Donna and Karen, will you now hold close to your heart the container of sand representing the essence of all that you are and all that you bring to this union. As you do so, place in these grains of sands all your hopes and dreams for the future. Bring to mind the strength of your promises that you will share today, and carry with you throughout your life together.

As these two vessels of sand are poured into the central vessel that already hold a strong foundation given to you by your families, the individual ones will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one. Just as this sand can never be separated and poured again so will it be with you marriage

Consecration:

A wedding ceremony is an outward form. To be true it must be a symbol of something inner and real; a sacred personal union which nature might mirror, a church solemnize, or a state declare legal, but which only love can create and mutual loyalty fulfill.



I ask you both, as you stand in the presence of your family and friends, to remember that love, loyalty and compassion alone will avail as the foundation of a happy and enduring home No other human ties are more tender, no other vows more sacred than those that you will now assume. If these sacred vows are honored and kept close to your hearts, and you endeavor to always live according to the best that is within each of you, your life together will be full of joy, peace and love.

Expression of Intent:

In the presence of God, family and friends, I ask you to state your intentions.
Donna and Karen, have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

Will you love and honor each other as partners for the rest of your lives?

Donna and Karen respond: I will.

Vows: (Couples can choose to write a personal statement or vow to each other)

At this time Donna and Karen will state their vows.

I, Karen, take, you Donna to be my wife, my partner, my love and my best friend. I promise this day to share your life with you, to respect you, honor you, support you and love you, through life's challenges and celebrations, I will stand by your side from this day and for all the days of your life.

I, Donna, take, you Karen to be my wife, my partner, my love and my best friend. I promise this day to share your life with you, to respect you, honor you, support you and love you, through life's challenges and celebrations, I will stand by your side from this day and for all the days of your life.

Rings:

"The Circle is a perfect figure, without beginning, without end, with no area of weakness. It is a symbol of the Cycle of Life, of birth, death, and rebirth. These rings that you now exchange serve as a physical reminder of your commitment to each other, and that all things begin and end and begin again, as is the nature of life itself. These rings will remind you that life goes on, that moments pass, yet your love is constant. When you are engulfed in anger or in sadness, look to your hand, and remember that the Wheel turns forever onward, and that it is love that turns the Wheel."

Here couples can choose from many ceremony options; such as Wine ceremony, Wine box and love letter ceremony, Hand ceremony or Handfasting, etc.)

Wine box ceremony: Optional

Donna and Karen have chosen to perform a Love Letter & Wine Box ceremony.

This beautiful box contains the couples favorite bottle of wine, two glasses, and a love letter to each other. The letters describe the good qualities they find in one another, the reasons they fell in love, and their reasons for choosing to marry. The letters are sealed in individual envelopes and they have not seen what the other has written.

They have created your very own “romantic” time capsule to be opened on their 5th wedding anniversary.

I recommend that you keep the box in a place of honor prominently displayed in your home as a constant reminder of your commitment to each other.

Donna and Karen should you ever find your marriage enduring insurmountable challenges, you are to as a couple, open this box, sit and drink the wine together, then separate and read the letters you wrote to one another when you were united as a couple in marriage. By reading these love letters you will reflect upon the reasons you fell in love and chose to marry each other here today.

Our hope is, however, that you will never have a reason to open this box until your 5th wedding anniversary to share, enjoy and relive the most important day of your lives. Donna and Karen, you may now seal the box.

Wedding Blessing

Join me now in a final blessing for Donna and Karen as they walk hand and hand into the expandable horizon!

I ask you both to remember to:

Be together in harmony and let the winds of the heavens dance between you. Empower each other and allow your relationship to evolve to its highest purpose. Nourish each others possibilities and lift up each others spirits. Care for one another, share your love openly and let it be a moving sea between the shores of your souls. Sing and dance together and be joyful. Share your love with each other and unite your love with our Creator. May your union last through all of your moments together, so that in the triumphs and the trials that lie ahead, you will feel just as you do now – happy to be in love and married to one another. Go then, in peace, and live more and more in the present, which is beautiful and stretches away beyond the limits of the past and towards the horizons of the future.

Pronouncement:

Because, Karen and Donna, you have showered our hearts with expressions of your love, and promised each other the joy of all your days, It gives me great honor and pleasure to now pronounce you unity in love and legally married to one another!

The Kiss:

As the kiss is the messenger of the heart and soul, allow your souls to meet on your lips with this kiss.

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obligations....Without question, civil marriage enhances the "welfare of the community." It is a "social institution of the highest importance." ... Marriage also bestows enormous private and social advantages on those who choose to marry. Civil marriage is at once a deeply personal commitment to another human being and a highly public celebration of the ideals of mutuality, companionship, intimacy, fidelity, and family.... Because it fulfils yearnings for security, safe haven, and connection that express our common humanity, civil marriage is an esteemed institution, and the decision whether and whom to marry is among life's momentous acts of self-definition."

Same Gender Wedding Ceremonies

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When I first decided to become a wedding officiant back in 2008 one of the things that drew me to the idea was performing same-gender ceremonies. It was not legal then but there were commitment ceremonies. I still remember the first ceremony I performed for two women. Explaining it to my son the kindergartner was interesting, to say the least. My son declaring "two grandma's can so get married!" warmed my liberal heart. When these two grooms came to me to perform a vow renewal for them I embraced the opportunity. They were legally married in NYC and wanted to have a wedding here in Indiana with family and friends. I enjoyed talking with them and trying to better understand their point of view. This is the

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Ceremony Script

Welcome family and friends! Thank you for joining Groom and Groom today as they speak their vows to each other and enter in the journey of marriage. Their marriage.

I'm here as the wedding officiant. However, no priest, rabbi or legal official really has anything to do with what marries two people or what makes a marriage successful. A marriage is two separate people bringing all that they are and sharing themselves. They are committing to share themselves and to accept the other in all things. So what does that really mean?

When I was first contacted by Groom he said they were going to NYC to be legally married and that they were throwing a party for family and friends back here in Indiana. But, the more they thought about it, the more they wanted an actual wedding ceremony to confirm and share their love and to make a vow to each other in front of those they cared for the most.

I've got this great job. Not only because I'm

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be married.

When the three of us sat down to talk about this wedding I asked them why they were going to another state to get married if it has no legal meaning in Indiana. Groom explained that he has always considered New York to be a second home, spending summers for the past 30 years at the family vacation home in the Adirondack Mountains, both parents born in NY, and family who still live in NY. However, what stands out to me most about our conversation was that this is not a commitment ceremony. It is a marriage. They are not seeking to become partners in life they are becoming one as husband and husband. I don't know about you, but I find this profound.

When I asked about parents I was surprised to hear all the parents would be here tonight.

That is not as common as you may think. Be it a gay or straight marriage. But Groom and Groom explained that they were raised in an open, loving, environments. Both sets of parents have been together since they first married. Groom and Groom have seen first hand what long and lasting love and commitment truly mean!

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here:

The Grooms said they would like to include some readings from civil rights and gay rights history that are important to them. One reading comes to mind almost instantly. That is the decision given by Massachusetts Supreme Court Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall which ushered in a new era in 2004 when that State became the first in this country to legalize same-sex marriage. It truly speaks to what is important to these two men:

“Marriage is a vital social institution. The exclusive commitment of two individuals to each other nurtures love and mutual support; it brings stability to our society. For those who choose to marry, and for their children, marriage provides an abundance of legal, financial, and social benefits. In return it imposes weighty legal, financial, and social obligations....Without question, civil marriage enhances the “welfare of the community.” It is a “social institution of the highest importance.” ... Marriage also bestows enormous private and social advantages on those who choose to marry. Civil marriage is at once a deeply personal commitment to another human being and a

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humanity, civil marriage is an esteemed institution, and the decision whether and whom to marry is among life's momentous acts of self-definition."

from "Union"

by Robert Fulghum

"You have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some point, you decided to marry. From that moment of yes to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making promises and agreements in an informal way. All those conversations that were held riding in a car or over a meal or during long walks - all those sentences that began with "When we're married" and continued with "I will and you will and we will" - those late night talks that included "someday and somehow and maybe" - and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart. All these common things, and more, are the real process of a wedding. The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, "You know all those things we've promised and hoped and dreamed- well, I meant it all,

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you have learned much from one another in these last few years. Now

you shall say a few words that take you across a threshold of life, and things will never quite be the same between you. For after these vows, you shall say to the world, this- is my husband, we are married, for life."

Groom, do you take Groom to be your husband to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish; from this day forward until death do you part?

Groom, do you take Groom to be your husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish; from this day forward until death do you part?

Personal Vows exchanged here

Groom and Groom, may you live happily ever after. May all your days be blessed with

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challenge, and satisfaction, humor and insight, healing and renewal, love and wisdom, as in a quiet heart.

May you always feel that what you have is enough.

I now pronounce you husbands for life!

You may kiss the groom!

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