



WEDDINGS



Sample Wedding Ceremony: Formal

By Rev. Todd Kinde

A SAMPLE FORMAL WEDDING CEREMONY ORDER OF SERVICE

Seating

Prelude Music

Processional

Call to Worship

Invocation

Charge

Giving of the Bride

Declaration of Intent

Ascend the Platform

Scripture Read

Solo Music

Homily

Vows

Ring Ceremony

*Lighting of the
Unity Candle*

Declaration

Pronouncement

Prayer

Kiss

Presentation

Recessional

Dismissal

Signing of the License

Clean-up

Reception

Photos

A SAMPLE DETAILED FORMAL WEDDING CEREMONY

Seating: Spend some time with the ushers at rehearsal to give them instruction. Traditionally the bride's family is seated on the left side of the sanctuary and the groom's family is seated on the right side of the sanctuary. As the ushers escort the women to their seat they should walk on the right side of women, with the usher's left arm bent to hold the woman's right arm. The ushers should walk at a slower pace than usual to accommodate high-heeled shoes and flowing dresses.

Prelude Music: Appropriate wedding music should be played as the congregation assembles.

Processional: Pastor takes position at the center of lower platform area.

The ushers seat the mothers first; music which may be used during the seating of the mothers includes "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring."

Next is the seating of the bridal party. The groom's men and bride's maids may enter together or the groom's men may take position at the platform entering from a side room while the bride's maids enter from the center aisle.

Finally, the bride comes down the aisle; the traditional music used is the Bridal Chorus, but may be an appropriate song chosen by the bride and groom. Her father or another family representative may escort her. The people should stand as the bride enters.

Call to Worship: We are gathered here to worship God and to witness the marriage vows of *Groom's Full Name* and *Bride's Full Name*.

Let your light so shine before people that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Invocation: Living, Triune God, for grace we come. May this ceremony be pleasing in Your sight and bring to us Your blessing. Amen.

Charge: Dearly beloved, we are gathered together in the sight of God to join together this man and woman in holy matrimony. It is an honorable estate, instituted of God, signifying unto us the mystical union that is between Christ and His church, that holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with His presence and first miracle in Cana of Galilee. It is commended in the Scriptures to be honorable among all, and therefore is not by any to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but

reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined.

Giving of the Bride

Pastor: Who will give this woman to be married to this man?

Father: Her Mother and I.

If the parents are not giving the bride, another phrase may be used such as,

Her mother and our family.

Her family.

The congregation is then seated.

Declaration of Intent: *Groom's Full Name* will you take *Bride's Full Name* to be your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her, so long as you both shall live? Please respond, "I will."

The groom says, I will.

Bride's Full Name will you take *Groom's Full Name* to be your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, so long as you both shall live? Please respond, "I will."

The bride says, I will.

The wedding party will now ascend the platform.

Scripture Reading: *The Scripture reading may be one that is meaningful to the couple being married or one that has been used as a basis for pre-marital counseling.*

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let