Sample Ceremony – "Marriage is a Commitment"

We are gathered here today to witness the marriage of **X** and **Y.** By your presence, you celebrate with them the love they have discovered in each other and you support their decision to commit themselves to one another for the rest of their lives. Today we are here to celebrate love. We come together to witness and proclaim the joining together of these two persons in a marriage based on love.

Marriage is a commitment. Its success does not depend on feelings, circumstances, or moods, but on two people who are loyal to each other, and the vows they took on their wedding day. Marriage acknowledges that while each of you is an amazing and unique individual, you are even better together. So I would ask that you always remember to cherish each other as special and unique individuals; respect each other's thoughts and ideas; and live each day that you may share it together.

**X** and **Y** as the two of you walk the road of married life together, you will quickly come to realize that marriage is not a one-sided affair. The concept of what's mine is mine and what's yours is yours will no longer apply. There will need to be a sharing in all things…and that includes the sorrows as well as the good times. But that should be no cause for regret or concern, because the good times in marriage will always overshadow the sorrows, especially if you allow love to sustain you.

Officiant, X please repeat after me:

**I declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment (or can say reason) why I, X's full name, may not be joined in matrimony to Y's full name.**

Officiant, Y please repeat after me:

**I declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment (or can say reason) why I, Y's full name, may not be joined in matrimony to X's full name.**

Officiant, X please repeat after me:

**I call upon all persons present to witness that I, X's full name, take you, Y's full name, to be my lawful wedded partner/spouse/husband/wife.**

Officiant, Y please repeat after me:

**I call upon all persons present to witness that I, Y's full name, take you, X's full name, to be my lawful wedded partner/spouse/husband/wife.**

Officiant:

**X (full name), do you take Y (full name) to be your lawful partner/spouse/husband/wife (can end here or add) to have and to hold and to be faithful to him/her from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as you both shall live?**

First spouse answers: **I do.**

Officiant:

**Y (full name), do you take X (full name) to be your lawful partner/spouse/husband/wife (can end here or add) to have and to hold and to be faithful to him/her from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as you both shall live?**

Second spouse answers: **I do.**

Officiant: Please present the rings.

Wedding rings are an ancient symbol that two persons have committed themselves to each other, to the exclusion of all others. But they also hold a deeper meaning. The precious metal is a sign that the love shared between a couple is very valuable, and as a circle the ring tells us that love has no real beginning or end.

Y, as you place this ring on X's finger, repeat these words after me: As a token of the solemn vows of this marriage, I, full name, give you this ring.

X, as you place this ring on Y's finger, repeat these words after me: As a token of the solemn vows of this marriage, I, full name, give you this ring.

**X** and **Y** in as much as you have pledged yourself, one to the other, by the exchanging of vows and rings **I,** *Krista Foley***, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you X and Y to be married**. You may exchange a kiss as a token of your joy.

At this time, the couple and their witnesses will sign the Official Marriage Register.

I wish you a long life, happiness, prosperity. May the vows you made to one another today sustain you forever.  It is my pleasure to introduce to you [Mr. and Mrs._____; the married couple.]