Welcome and thank you for being here.

 **Partner 1** and **Partner 2** are thrilled that you are here today to share in their joy during this wonderful moment in their lives, a moment that many have been waiting for to even become a reality.

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.

The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved, loved for ourselves. If there is anything better than being loved, it is loving.

This evening we are here to celebrate love. We come together to witness and proclaim the joining together of these two persons in marriage.

This is the union of two individuals in heart, body, mind, and spirit, Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into lightly, but reverently, honestly, and deliberately. And it is into this union that **Partner 1** and **Partner 2** come now to be joined.

Now, **Partner 1** and **Partner 2** have chosen a couple readings to express their joy and love on this occasion.

**“To My Friend” -**

I love you not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you. I love you not only for what you have made of yourself, but for what you are making of me. I love you because you have done more than any creed could have done to make me good, and more than any fate could have done to make me happy. You have done it without a touch, without a word, without a sign. You have done it by being yourself. Perhaps that is what being a friend means, after all.

**“Once in a Lifetime” –**

Once in a lifetime you find someone

who touches not only your heart, but also your soul.

Once in a lifetime, you discover someone

who stands by you, not over you.

Once in a lifetime you find someone

who loves you for who you are, not for who you could be.

Once in a lifetime, if you are lucky,

you find someone, as I have found you

At this time I ask that you all join me in wishing **Partner 1** and **Partner 2**, a journey filled with unconditional love and understanding. May their continued kindness, compassion, trust and faith in each other be a constant example to us all of the grace and beauty that the gift of love embodies for all of us.

**The expression of intent**

**Partner 1**, you have chosen **Partner 2** to be your life partner. Will you love and respect (her/him)? Will you be honest with (her/him) always? Will you stand by (him/her) through whatever may come? *(Answer: "I will")*

**Partner 2**, you have chosen **Partner 1** to be your life partner. Will you love and respect (her/him)? Will you be honest with (her/him) always? Will you stand by (him/her) through whatever may come? *(Answer: "I will")*

And, **Partner 1 and Partner 2**, do you both promise to make the necessary adjustments in your personal lives in order that you may live in a harmonious relationship together? *(Answer: "We do")*

***The Hand Ceremony:***

 **Partner 1 and Partner 2** as you face one another other and hold each other’s hands know that

These are the hands of your best friend, full of love for you, holding yours on your wedding day

These are the hands that will scratch your back when you have an itch you can’t reach

These are the hands that will help decorate your Christmas tree

These are the hands that will dial your number just to say hello – when you’ve been missed throughout the day

These are the hands that, at times, will want to strangle you

These are the hands that will passionately love and cherish you through the years

These are the hands that will hold you for comfort and tickle you for joy

and that will wipe the tears from your eyes

These are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

**The exchange of vows**

**Partner 1 and Partner 2** , it is now time to say the pledges which will affirm your marriage. Please take each other hands, face each other and repeat after me:

**Partner 1:**  I (name), take you, (name), to be no other than yourself. Loving and trusting what I know of you, with respect to your integrity and with faith of your love in me, through our years together and all that life may bring us, I accept you as my partner in life. This is my solemn vow.

**Partner 2:** I (name) take you, (name), to be no other than yourself. Loving and trusting what I know of you, with respect to your integrity and with faith of your love in me, through our years together and all that life may bring us, I accept you as my partner in life. This is my solemn vow.

OPTIONAL Partner 1 and Partner 2 have written their personal testimonies to each other and instead of reading them aloud they have chosen to share them privately. Please place them in the box.

*Ring Exchange*

These rings are the symbol of the vows taken, a circle of wholeness; the perfect form. These rings mark the beginning of a long journey together filled with wonder, surprises, tears, laughter, celebrations, grief and joy. May these rings glow in reflection of the warmth and the life which flow through the wearers today.

*Repeat after officiant and place ring on finger*

**Partner 1:** I, (partner 1’s name), give you this ring that you may wear as a symbol of the vows we have made this day. I pledge you my love, and respect, my laughter and my tears. With all that I am, I honor you.

**Partner 2, repeat after me**: I, (partner 2’s name) give you this ring that you may wear as a symbol of the vows we have made this day. I pledge you my love, and respect, my laughter and my tears. With all that I am, I honor you.

**Affirmation of the marriage**

 Now may those who wear these rings live in love all their days. Now may the love, which has brought you together, continue to grow and enrich your lives. May you continue to meet with courage any problems, which may arise to challenge you. May your relationship always be one of love and trust. May the happiness you share today be with you always. And may everything you have said and done here today become a living truth in your lives.

**Declaration of Marriage**

**Partner 1 and Partner 2**, we have heard your promise to share your lives in marriage. We recognize and respect the covenant you have made here this day before each one of us as witnesses. Therefore in the honesty and sincerity of what you have said and done here today and by the power vested in me by the State of Florida, it is my honour and delight to declare you married and partners in life...for life.

You may seal your vows with a kiss.

**Introduction of the couple**

 It is now my personal privilege and great joy to be the first one to introduce (name 1 and name 2) as the newly married couple. Partners in life... for life.