

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

*With a little thought and planning you can create your dream ceremony.
Here are a few tips for getting started.*

1. How do you imagine your ceremony?
2. What “tone” would you like to set? –serious, formal, spiritual, lighthearted, warm, emotional etc?
3. Based on weddings you’ve attended what ideas/activities/wording appeal to you or don’t appeal to you?
4. Are there family, cultural or religious traditions you wish to include?
5. Are there stories, songs or symbols you would like to add to the ceremony?
6. Do you want to write your own vows or do you have vows selected or do you wish to be given sample vows?

The following suggestions are for those who wish to write their own vows.

Spend time discussing these with each other

- ❖ How do we feel about our unique relationship to each other?
- ❖ What are our hopes and dreams for our marriage?
- ❖ What words can we use to express these thoughts?
- ❖ Do you want a question/answer format or a conversational format?

The Wedding Ceremony Planner by Reverend Judith Johnson, PhD is an excellent resource.

**May you keep your love alive
with your openness and enthusiasm
towards each other**



SHORT AND CASUAL CEREMONY



GATHERING WORDS

Any acknowledgements, remembrances, special mentions or readings

WELCOME

- Bride and Groom have asked all of you to be with them today
- Because each of you means something special to them
- Your friendship and love will always be appreciated
- They welcome you here and thank you for sharing this important day with them.

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT

- Collectively, you represent the families, friends and traditions that have brought Bride and Groom to this point in their lives. Please affirm your support for this marriage by responding “Yes I do” to the following question:
- *As part of the community that surrounds Bride and Groom do you offer your love and support to strengthen their marriage and bless this family created by their union?*

WEDDING VOWS

- I (Groom) take you to be my wife, my lover and my best friend
- I am choosing to share with you all of life’s blessings, joys and sorrows, successes and disappointments.
- I will love you and cherish you always. I promise you this with my heart and soul for all the days of my life.
- Repeat for Bride

RING EXCHANGE

- Groom: I give you this ring as a sign that I choose you to be my lover, my partner and my best friend, today, tomorrow and always
- Repeat for Bride

FINAL BLESSING

- Now because you have chosen one another and pledged to love each other for all the days of your lives
- And before this loving community of family and friends
- It gives me great joy to pronounce you husband and wife.