

# Civil Ceremony

## Charge to the Couple by the Minister

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by coming here today, you have now taken the initial step in what hopefully will be a wonderful and lasting life together. Marriage is a conscious act of will. A marital commitment includes the willingness to be open and vulnerable and having the courage to take risks. Your commitment today is to accept the challenges of establishing and nurturing the intimacy of your conscious partnership.

For a marriage to be successful, you must each be loyal to the other, stand firm in your defense of each other and be supportive of one another's life goals and dreams. A good marriage is one that fosters respect, a devoted love, and a willingness to compromise with each other. In addition, you will need strength, courage, patience and a really good sense of humor. These are the foundation blocks of a strong marriage.

## Statement of Intent to Marry

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, your marriage today is the public and legal joining of your lives that have already been united as one in your hearts.

Do you \_\_\_\_\_, welcome \_\_\_\_\_ as your wife/spouse/partner, offering him/her your love and encouragement, your trust and respect, as together you create your future? *I do*

Do you \_\_\_\_\_, welcome \_\_\_\_\_ as your husband/spouse/partner, offering him/her your love and encouragement, your trust and respect, as together you create your future? *I do*

*Optional personal vows made by each partner*

## Pronouncement

Today \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have declared that they shall be together in marriage. They have vowed to be loyal and loving towards each other. They have formalized the existence of the bond between them with words spoken and with the giving and receiving of rings. Therefore it is my pleasure to now pronounce them husband and wife / married. You may now kiss.