**Opening Words/ Gathering Words**

As we gather here today to observe this ceremony that joins Stacy and Phil together as one, let us surround them with our love, prayers, and best wishes, on this, their wedding day, and throughout their journey together as Marriage Partners.

Let us begin by welcoming the presence of God within each of us. (\*\*\*\* we don’t like this exact statement because of the mention of God – maybe it could be something a little different)

**Remembrances & Acknowledgments**

Stacy and Phil have asked that we take a moment to honor the memory of those loved ones who could only be here today in spirit.

**Charge for the Couple, Names to be included: Readings and Songs: Selection: Author: Reader or Singer’s Name: (\*\*\* we don’t have any readings selected – not sure if we need to… but possibly)**

You have earned this faith and trust by creating a sound foundation for this marriage. Your task now is to build on this solid base.

Stacy and Phil,

As in tending the flowers in a garden, the quality of your marriage will reflect the effort you put into nurturing this relationship. You have the opportunity to go forward from this day to create a faithful, kind, and tender relationship.

Phil, do you understand and accept this responsibility, and do you promise to do your very best each day to create a loving, healthy, and happy marriage?

Groom: Yes, I do.

Stacy, do you understand and accept this responsibility, and do you promise to do your very best each day to create a loving, healthy, and happy marriage?

Bride: Yes, I do.

**The Declaration of Support**

Stacy and Phil, today we have come together to celebrate the love you have found with each other. By being here with you, each of us is declaring our support for your decision to join together in marriage.

(To guests)

As families and friends you form the community of support that surrounds Stacy and Phil. Each of you, by your presence here today, is being called upon to uphold them in honoring and loving each other.

Always stand beside them, never between them. Offer them your love and support, not your judgment. Encourage them with your kindness and loving hearts, and honor this marriage into which they have come to be joined today.

**Marriage Address**

Marriage is the essence of human relationships. It challenges us to be of one accord without abandoning the truth of our individuality. It challenges us to not lose ourselves in one another, but rather to walk side by side heading in the same direction. As with all relationships, marriage is an endless presentation of choices about how we want to be with one another. Each choice results in either more unity or more separation. Choose into that unity, Stacy and Phil, every chance you get.

Sacrifice your judgments, expectations, and any other ways that you have learned to separate yourselves from each other.

Share the gifts of your friendship, humor, vulnerability, sensitivity, and kindness. Be sure to find ways each day to protect, affirm, and support each other, and to treasure the balance and shared values that you have found with each other.

Enjoy the intertwining of your independence with your intimacy. I wish you the courage to keep your loving hearts open to each other for the rest of your lives.

**Candle Ceremony**

It is a gift that lights us up inside. And when two people join their hearts together in marriage, their lights flow together and a single brighter light goes forth from their united being. 

Stacy and Phil, by committing to one another today, you kindle the light within each other, and promise to do your best to always see that light within one another, to nurture and tend that flame in your partner as best you can, especially in difficult times, when this may be hardest to do.

Stacy, take this candle as a symbol of your spirit; and Phil, take this candle as a symbol of your spirit.

Now joining your individual flames together, light the center candle which symbolizes the spirit of your union and the new and greater flame of your marriage. As you do so, silently vow to tend the spirit of this union, and never forget that just as this union is made stronger by your strength as individuals, so are you as individuals made stronger by the strength of this union.

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**Wedding Vows**

**Groom:**

**Bride:**

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**Ring Exchange, Prelude by the Officiant**

(\*\*\* We need a lead in here after the vows and into the ring exchange)

Rings are adornments, carefully chosen for their beauty and simplicity. They quietly sit upon our fingers, reminding us of the power of love and the pledge of the wearer to his or her partner to be faithful and true, and to nurture their love so it will last a lifetime. Stacy and Phil, may these rings be for you always your most treasured adornment, and may the love they symbolize be your most treasured possession.

**Ring Exchange by the Couple**

This ring is a symbol of promise to always love, cherish, honor, and respect.

Officiant: \_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your lawfully wedded wife/husband, to love and to cherish from this day forward?

Groom/Bride: I do.

(The Officiant hands them the rings to place on their partner’s finger.)

**Final Blessings**

Stacy and Phil, I wish you the courage to keep your loving hearts open to each other for the rest of your lives, and to cherish the precious love you share. May you continue to find delight in each other and in your being together. May your love forever nourish you and keep you strong. Now, because you have chosen one another and pledged to love each other for all the days of your lives, before God and before this loving community of family and friends, it gives me great joy to pronounce that you are now husband and wife.