

CUSTOMIZING YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

One of the things the pastor officiating at your ceremony will discuss with you during your premarital sessions will be the wedding 'order of service' – that is, the specific details of the wedding ceremony itself.

You'll want to plan on having your wedding order of service finalized by two weeks before your wedding day. *If your wedding will be at Heartland, our Wedding Team will be in touch with you two weeks prior to your wedding, to meet with you and talk through your final ceremony details. This will help ensure that the rehearsal and ceremony go smoothly. If you plan to include an outline of the ceremony elements in your wedding programs, you will want to settle the details earlier to allow time for printing.*

We encourage you to use the order of service that follows as a starting point. It's a nice, standard ceremony that many of our pastors like to use. *(Please note that – with the exception of some of the vows, etc – the pastor will not read from this word-for-word at your ceremony! The pastors' words provided in this document are there just to give you a general sense of what he/she will say.)*

You are welcome to omit or rearrange most elements of the service as you'd like – so feel free to print it out and make notes on how you'd like to make the service your own. If you have questions about this, the pastor who'll be officiating for you (and/or his or her assistant) will be able to help you.

WEDDING ORDER OF SERVICE

Wedding of BRIDE: _____ and GROOM: _____

DATE: _____ TIME: _____ LOCATION: _____

1. PRELUDE MUSIC/GENERAL SEATING

MUSIC: _____

USHERS: _____

2. SEATING OF FAMILY

Seating of Groom's Grandparents

NAMES: _____

ESCORTED BY: _____ SONG: _____

Seating of Bride's Grandparents

NAMES: _____

ESCORTED BY: _____ SONG: _____

Seating of Groom's Parents

NAMES: _____

ESCORTED BY: _____ SONG: _____

Seating of Bride's Parents

NAMES: _____

ESCORTED BY: _____ SONG: _____

(Note: In this scenario, the men & women of the wedding party enter separately, but if you'd like your wedding party to enter as couples, you may opt to do so!)

3. PASTOR, GROOM, BEST MAN & GROOMSMEN ENTER

SONG: _____

BEST MAN: _____ (*stands next to groom*)

GROOMSMEN: 1) _____ (*stands next to best man*)

GROOMSMEN: 2) _____

GROOMSMEN: 3) _____

GROOMSMEN: 4) _____

GROOMSMEN: 5) _____ (*stands furthest from groom*)

4. BRIDAL PARTY PROCESSIONAL

Bridesmaids and Maid/Matron of Honor

SONG: _____

BRIDESMAID: 5) _____ (*stands furthest from bride*)

BRIDESMAID: 4) _____

BRIDESMAID: 3) _____

BRIDESMAID: 2) _____

BRIDESMAID: 1) _____ (*stands next to maid/matron of honor*)

MAID/MATRON OF HONOR: _____ (*stands next to bride*)

Ringbearer(s) and Flower Girl(s)

RINGBEARER(s): _____ (*please note ages*)

FLOWER GIRL(s): _____ (*please note ages*)

Bride Enters (*congregation stands*)

SONG: _____

ESCORTED BY: _____

5. WELCOME AND PRAYER

The pastor will open the ceremony by saying something like this:

On behalf of the (BRIDE last name) and (GROOM last name) families, I'd like to welcome you on this beautiful day and in this magnificent setting, as we get to witness one of the most sacred moments of a lifetime: the union of (GROOM first name) and (BRIDE first name).

Let's Pray: Heavenly Father, we are really grateful for this day. And we invite You and Your very spirit to fall upon us in this moment and we ask your Son Jesus to be the Author and Completer of the covenant that (GROOM first name) and (BRIDE first name) are about to make this day. We pray this in your name, amen.

The pastor will ask the congregation to be seated.

6. COUPLE'S STORY

The pastor will continue the ceremony by saying something like this:

We are here today to witness the union of (GROOM first name) and (BRIDE first name).

The Scriptures teaches us that God created us both male and female with the intention that husband and wife would live together in love and fidelity. In fact, it was God who said, "It is not good for man to be alone." And, (GROOM first name), your buddies and I all agree with that. It is not good for you to be alone, my friend. You have, in (BRIDE first name), have outdone yourself. For (BRIDE first name) – may I just say on (GROOM first name)'s behalf that you are a beautiful bride!

7. DECLARATION OF INTENTION

(GROOM first name), will you have this woman to be your wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy bond of marriage? Will you love, comfort, and honor her in all seasons of life and remain faithful to her so long as you both shall live?

*Groom responds: **I will***

(BRIDE first name), will you have this man to be your husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy bond of marriage? Will you love, comfort, and honor him in all seasons of life and remain faithful to him so long as you both shall live?

*Bride responds: **I will***

8. DECLARATION AND CONSENT

Who gives this woman to be wed?

*Father of Bride responds: **Her mother and I do***

(Bride kisses Father; Father gives Bride's hand to the Groom and Father is seated.)

9. OPTIONAL SONG

SONG: _____

MUSICIAN(s): _____

10. OPTIONAL SCRIPTURE READING(S)

PASSAGE(s): _____

READER(s): _____

11. WEDDING SERMON

12. VOWS

(GROOM first name) and (BRIDE first name), I would like you to face each other, join hands, and repeat after me the words of the marital vows.

(GROOM first name): would you repeat after me?

I (GROOM first name) take you (BRIDE first name) / to be my wedded wife / to have and to hold / from this day forward / for better or for worse / for richer or for poorer / in sickness and in health / to love and respect / serve and cherish / regardless of what lies ahead / This I promise you before God.

(BRIDE first name): would you repeat after me?

I (BRIDE first name) take you (GROOM first name) / to be my wedded husband / to have and to hold / from this day forward / for better or for worse / for richer or for poorer / in sickness and in health / to love and respect / serve and cherish / regardless of what lies ahead / This I promise you before God.

13. EXCHANGE OF RINGS

(GROOM first name) and (BRIDE first name) have brought to this marriage as tokens of their commitment and love, rings, which they will now exchange.

(GROOM first name) will you now take (BRIDE first name)'s hands, and repeat after me: "(BRIDE first name), as a token of our vow / and our abiding love / I give you this ring / and with it I give you / all that is mine."

(Groom places the ring on Bride's finger)

(BRIDE first name) will you now take (GROOM first name)'s hands, and repeat after me: "(GROOM first name), as a token of our vow / and our abiding love / I give you this ring / and with it I give you / all that is mine."

(Bride places the ring on Groom's finger)

14. OPTIONAL UNITY CANDLE AND/OR COMMUNION

SONG: _____

MUSICIAN(s): _____

15. PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT FROM PASTOR FOR COUPLE

16. PRAYER OVER COUPLE

For (BRIDE first name): *desire to respect (GROOM first name) and show it
to encourage and admire him
quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger*

For (GROOM first name): *teach him to be gentle and to protect (BRIDE first name)
communicate affection
ears to hear both You and his wife
quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger*

For Both: *speak the truth in love
do all in the name of Jesus giving thanks
love God with heart, soul, mind and strength*

I pray that you will help this couple commit to seeking a love like Yours - one that imparts value, rather than requires it. And even now, I ask that You will tenderly whisper to both (GROOM first name) and (BRIDE first name) just how much You love them, so they in turn will be overflowing with this love for a lifetime.

17. PRONOUNCEMENT

For as much as you, (GROOM first name) and (BRIDE first name) have consented in marriage, and have witnessed this before God and before this group of people, and have pledged yourselves to each other and have declared the same by the giving and receiving of rings...by the authority given me by God, I now pronounce you husband and wife!

18. THE KISS

(GROOM first name), please kiss your new bride!

19. INTRODUCTION OF THE COUPLE

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me introduce to you, for the first time ever:

(HOW COUPLE WOULD LIKE TO BE INTRODUCED) _____

20. RECESSIONAL

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GUESTS: _____

21. DISMISSAL OF GUESTS