

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *You can design your own ceremony. These are suggestions for wedding ceremonies. You may delete any part or parts you wish, or include and add other parts or paragraphs from other ceremonies as you wish. You may also compose and include whatever you find to be appropriate. Please print the ceremony of your choice and customize to your liking, then send it to me so that I may read it at your ceremony.*

## **No. 7 MARRIAGE CEREMONY**

This ceremony includes parts of other ceremonies.

Officiant: Hon. John Edward Cass

### **Processional**

( \_\_\_\_\_ )

### **Presentation of the Bride**

Who gives (Bride: \_\_\_\_\_ ) to be married to (Groom: \_\_\_\_\_ )?

(Father, Friend, etc. \_\_\_\_\_ ) **of the Bride:** **Ex:** Her mother and I do.

The Bride is presented.

### **Convocation**

Dear (Bride: \_\_\_\_\_ ) and (Groom: \_\_\_\_\_ ),

Today you are surrounded by your friends and family; all of whom you hold dear. We are gathered here to witness your marriage, and to share in the joy of this occasion, which should be one of the most memorable and happy days of your lives. This wedding ceremony does not create a human relationship, but merely affirms it; it is not the seed, but the flowering of a friendship nurtured and blossomed.

As you know, no minister, no priest, no rabbi, no public official can marry you. Only you can marry yourselves, by a commitment to love each

other, to create an atmosphere of care and consideration and respect, by a willingness to face the responsibilities of life, you can make your wedded life come alive.

And just what is marriage? Though private in nature, marriage is a public expression of love and loyalty, of caring devotion, founded on the cornerstone of a unique intimacy, mutual respect, and empathy. Persons who marry are many, but not all things to each other. Remaining individuals, they are companions who help each other through life. While marriage is a partnership in life, this sharing is not at the expense of each other's individuality; rather the uniqueness of each person is enhanced by the strength of their common bond. When there is sorrow, each can provide comfort; when there is happiness, each can provide joy. Though a couple changes and grows, the marital bond remains a source of nourishment and comfort in an unpredictable and often troubled world.

The ingredients needed for this life partnership include respect, friendship, laughter, trust, support, adventure and patience. Marriage is a union of commitment and growth.

Today, as you join yourselves in marriage, there is a vast and unknown future stretching out before you. The possibilities of your married life are great and exciting.

The future of your life together, with its successes and disappointments, its pleasures and its pain, its joys and sorrows, is hidden from your eyes. You know that these elements are present in every life and are to be expected in your own, and so, not knowing what is before you, you accept each other for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health.

By your marriage, you recognize the worthy human impulse of giving, each imparting the vital essences of one another.

Of all the persons whom you know, each of you has chosen the other to share of life and of unique intimacy in marriage. Now, drawn this hour to take pleasure in the convergence of these two lives we are gathered here to witness the entering into of a pledge which is a reflection of serious thought.

(Groom: \_\_\_\_\_), will you accept (Bride: \_\_\_\_\_), to be your lawfully wedded wife, companion and trusted friend? Will you love her, comfort her, respect her, and cherish her, all the days of your lives?

If "Yes" – say "I will."

And will you, (Bride: \_\_\_\_\_), accept (Groom: \_\_\_\_\_), to be your lawfully wedded husband, companion and trusted friend? Will



"With this ring I thee wed. May it always be a symbol of my eternal love and faithfulness to you."

May you keep the covenant which you have made and nurture the feelings that brought you together throughout your life.

Having publicly and formally affirmed your commitment to one another; and having promised to love, to comfort, to respect, and to cherish one another, now, therefore, by virtue of the power vested in me by the State of Minnesota, I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss each other.

### **Introduction**

I now present ( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

### ***Recessional***

( \_\_\_\_\_ )

### ***Postlude***

( \_\_\_\_\_ )