



Congratulations
And
Many Blessings

The Wedding Service
Of
Naryn Holland
And
Michael Levering

May 18, 2010

Officiated By
Rev. Vickie Carey, D.D., Ph.D.

Ordained & Licensed
In the
Commonwealth of Virginia
And the
State Of North Carolina

The Prelude

A wedding is that occasion when a man and woman publicly proclaim their love and declare their commitment to one another. By its very nature it is both a solemn and a happy event. For some of you gathered here, this ceremony will prompt a flood of personal memories, for others of you it will set in motion dreams and aspirations. For all of us it will be sharing in the most intimate and love filled moment in the lives of two people we know and appreciate.

But for Naryn and Michael, who stand here before us, this ceremony will be an act of participation in what they believe is the proclamation of love, devotion and a life long commitment of respect to each other.

They are both pleased and honored that you have responded to their invitation to share these happy and sacred moments with them as we bless their union on this special day.

When a Mother and Father bring a child into this world, they take on a commitment to care for that child through out their life. At some point a parent realizes their baby has grown up and moves into adulthood. Ready to take on the responsibilities of life and family on their own.

But as Parents give their daughter to the hand of another the commitment of love and devotion are not given away. Only the responsibility for protection and care are given in an act of sharing their daughter's life with her new husband. By this act the Parents are giving their blessing to this union and openly welcoming her new husband into their own family.

With that understanding, who gives this woman to be married to

this man?

FATHER: Her mother and I do.

{The father places his daughters hand in the palm of her groom and sits down in the congregation}.

An Affirmation of Marriage

Marriage is not just a legal commitment between a man and a woman. It is also a spiritual commitment between their souls for everlasting love and devotion. A marriage cannot exist and thrive without a mutual respect of ideas, feelings and expressions of conscious and desire. Without respect you cannot support each other's dreams, or care for one another in sickness. You cannot share the intimacy of your love, or honor the sacrifices you each will make to sustain your partnership and your family. Respect will maintain your love for one another even when those moments of dissatisfaction arise and angry words are spoken.

Every marriage travels through the hills and valleys of life. You will argue, you will grow angry; you will have moments of desired solitude. But through your mutual respect, you will overcome the trials and tribulations you face in life and you will sustain your partnership with commitment and devotion.

Holding respect for each other is the cornerstone of any loving relationship that lasts through the decades and will be there when you have grown old and stand by each other looking back over a lifetime of memories. It will provide you joy; pride and compassion as you grow together, care for each other and attain wisdom you can share with your own children as they grow and look to you for guidance.

The Wedding Vows

Naryn and Michael, you have come before your parents and this gathering to proclaim your desire to be formally united in marriage. If this is your intention I ask you to join hands and affirm your promise of love, honor, respect and union before this congregation.

- Traditional Vows:

Naryn do you promise to live with Michael as his wife? Do you promise to commit yourself to support his needs in the physical, emotional and spiritual essence of his being? Do you promise that whatever the circumstances you will love, honor and hold him with respect through sickness and in health, through abundance and want, in joy and sorrow, with strength and support? Will you promise to commit yourself to the faithfulness of this union as long as you both shall live?

BRIDE: I do.

Michael do you promise to live with Naryn as her husband? Do you promise to commit yourself to support her needs in the physical, emotional and spiritual essence of her being? Do you promise that whatever the circumstances you will love, honor and hold her with respect through sickness and in health, through abundance and want, in joy and sorrow, with strength and support? Will you promise to commit yourself to the faithfulness of this union as long as you both shall live?

GROOM: I do.

The Exchange of Rings

The wedding ring has a long and mysterious history. The first recognized wedding rings were fashioned on the shores of the Nile by ancient Egyptians who twisted and braided reeds into rings and bracelets of commitment. Many ancient cultures hold the ring as a symbol of eternity, with no beginning and no end.

The hole in the center of the ring is not just space either; it is important in its own right. It is seen as the gateway of the inner spirit; leading to things and events both known and unknown.

It is not difficult to see how the ring and the gift of a ring became associated with love, in the hope that this most worthy of emotion could take on the characteristics of the circle and capture its life of eternity.

Today we wear this ring of eternal commitment on the third finger of the left hand, because of a belief that the vein of that finger directly traveled from the heart. The Greeks later took up this legend, when they conquered Egypt and was passed onto the Romans, who called this 'the vein of love'.

Today it is a symbol of eternal commitment and devotion. It symbolizes to the world that Naryn and Michael have dedicated their love and their lives to each other through this faithful union. Let no one put this union asunder and let all bless it with compassion and respect.

Your rings will remind you of each other each time you look at it. You will be reminded of your faithful commitment that you have made to one another here today.

Naryn will you take this ring and place it upon Michael's finger. Repeating after me: I give you this ring as a token and symbol of my love, commitment and respect.

BRIDE: I give you this ring as a token and symbol of my love, commitment and respect.

Michael will you take this ring and place it upon Naryn's finger. Repeating after me: I give you this ring as a token and symbol of my love, commitment and respect.

GROOM: I give you this ring as a token and symbol of my love, commitment and respect.

The Declaration of Marriage

Naryn and Michael, as you have committed yourselves to a lifelong love, before your family and friends, and since you have agreed to meet the needs of each other as long as you both shall live, and you have made your intentions public, acting in the authority vested in me by this county and state, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Michael, you may now kiss your bride and seal your sacred commitment to one another.

The Pronouncement

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my honor and pleasure to present to you Mr. and Mrs. Levering

The Exit

Please remain seated as the wedding party exits to greet you outside this chapel. Naryn and Michael, will you please lead the way.



Spring's Haven Spiritual Center

The ministry of Spring's Haven is focused on understanding spirituality to bring about tolerance and peace. Our goal is to facilitate holistic spiritual awareness, enlightenment, wellness and self-empowerment through education and celebration.

You can experience the spiritual teachings of the Center through many different avenues. Spring's Haven offers worship services, adult education classes in spiritual philosophy and practice, healthy living, Reiki healing, leadership training and a thriving spiritual community. The Center also offers services in spiritual healing, divination and spiritual direction and counseling.

The Center is a non-member organization. Individuals participate because they want to share in hope, community and friendship with other spiritual beings.

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