

## Father Dyer UMC Traditional Ceremony

<Welcome>

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony; which is an honorable estate, instituted of God, and signifying unto us the mystical union which exists between Christ and his Church; therefore not to be entered into unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and with a great deal of respect, both for the other person and for oneself. Into this holy estate these two persons come now to be joined.

<Family segment, optional>

<Presentation of the Bride>

Who presents \_\_\_\_\_ to be married to \_\_\_\_\_?

<Homily, if chosen from another ceremony>

<Intentions>

I require and charge you both, as you stand in the presence of these witnesses, that, having duly considered the holy covenant you are about to make, you do now declare before this company your pledge of faith, each to the other.

*(The minister says to the man)*

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others keep only unto her so long as you both shall live?

*(The man shall answer,)* I WILL.

*(Then shall the minister say to the woman,)*

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others keep only unto him so long as you both shall live?

*(The woman shall answer,)* I WILL.

<Reading, optional>

<Vows>

*(Bride passes bouquet to Maid of Honor. Couple faces each other.  
The minister addresses groom and asks him to repeat)*

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance. This is my promise to you.**

*(The minister addresses bride and asks her to repeat)*

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance. This is my promise to you.**

<Meaning of the Rings>

*(The minister says)*

**The wedding ring is the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, signifying to all the uniting of this man and this woman in holy matrimony, through the Church of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Do you have rings?**

<Blessing of the rings>

*(The minister says)*

**Let us pray.**

**Bless, O Lord, the giving of these rings, that they who wear them may abide in thy peace, and continue in thy favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

<Ring vows>

*(The minister asks groom to place ring on her left hand and repeat;  
then same for bride)*

**In token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love, with this ring I thee wed, in the name of the Creator, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

<Pronouncement>

*(Then shall the minister join their hands together and,  
with their hands united shall say:)*

**Forasmuch as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have pledged their faith each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands and by giving and receiving rings; I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Creator, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

<Unity candle, optionalr>

<Pastoral Prayer of Blessing – at altar if they have gone up there>  
*(Bride and Groom face each other)*

**O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and for ever. Amen.**

<The Lord's Prayer>

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*(couple returns, bride gets bouquet back, they face each other)*

<Closing Prayer>

**May these two people, now married, keep this covenant which they have made. May they be a blessing and a comfort to each other, sharers of each other's joys, consolers in each other's sorrows, helpers to each other in all the ups and downs of life. May they encourage each other in whatever they set out to achieve. May they, trusting in each other, trust life and not be afraid. Yet may they not only accept and give affection between themselves, but also together, have affection and consideration for others.**

**We who are here present, and those who are absent thinking of these two people, hope that the inspiration of this hour will not be forgotten. May they continue to love one another forever.**

<Reading, optional>

<Benediction>

*(Then the minister shall give this blessing)*

**God the Creator, God the Son, God and the Holy Spirit bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord graciously with his favor look upon you, and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and love that you may so live together in this life that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. Amen.**

<The Kiss>

*(Couple turns, bride switches bouquet)*

<Introduce Couple>

**I know present to you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

<Recessional>