



Deo Gloria Family Church

PBO No. / 930025589

A church for all people

Services every Sunday at 6pm – 48 Gordon Road Morningside Durban

Outline of Standard Order of Service Marriages under the Civil Union Act & Marriage Act.

This is a general guideline which I generally use in most ceremonies that I do.

I try to make the ceremony as personal as possible and not to drag it out and therefore the ceremony is approximately 30-40 minutes max.

Photographer/Videographer:

Music:

Outline:

1. Entrance on Music (Optional)

There are a few possibilities here:

- a) Pastor waits inside, while the couple enter together
- b) Pastor leads the couple into the building/ceremony
- c) Pastor waits inside with one person; the other walks in
- d) One person waits inside; Pastor leads the other in
- e) Procession arrangement: pages/flower girls bridal & /or grooms party/etc.; entering first, combined with any of the above options.
- f) Mother or father of the bride/groom to accompany Bride/groom? Name_____

2. Welcoming and Opening Prayer

Pastor welcomes all present to the ceremony, especially the couple and opens the proceedings with a prayer.

3. Singing of Hymn/Song (Optional)

- a) The couple may have a favourite hymn they wish to sing
- b) They may have a friend who may sing a love song to them
- c) **They may have a favourite appropriate song they wish to be played on a CD.**
(Whatever the choice it needs to be in keeping with the flow of a Christian ceremony)

4. Sermon - The sermon is approximately 10-15 minutes.

5. Introduction to the Vows and Legal Question

In this part Pastor attempts to draw the ceremony into more intimacy for the couple during the vows. The couple is asked to declare their love for one another by answering the question posed by the pastor. Both parties will individually answer "I do" to this question.

This is usually followed by the legal question whether anybody be opposed to the legal union, if so to speak or forever hold their peace. I do not drag this section out, but answer almost immediately with an amen and move on. (Sometimes this question is slotted in elsewhere).

Example: Do you_____, declare before God and before these witnesses, that you take_____ to be your lawful /husband /wife/spouse, in this covenant called marriage **-I do**

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6. Ceremony of the Vows

Here too, there are a number of variations:

- a) The Vows are said by Pastor and the **couple repeat** the words after her.
- b) The Vows are said by Pastor and the couple merely answer **'Yes'**.
- c) The **couple write their own Vows** which they read/say to each other, (or repeat after the pastor).

Example: **I ___ promise to stand by your side and to take you as my life partner, husband/wife on the journey of this life. Everything I am, I give to you. Everything I will be is yours forever.**

7. Blessing on the Rings (Optional)

The person holding the rings brings them forward and holds them out to Pastor, who says a short prayer of blessing on these symbols of love. Then, they are presented to the couple.

8. Ring Ceremony (Extension of Vows)

These are actually an extension of the Vows.

They are words that are said to each other, or by Pastor, on the exchange of the rings. The couple may choose their own version.

Examples: I, _____, give to you _____, this ring, as a symbol, of my love for you. Just as a circle, is without end, this ring will always be, a visible reminder, of my love for you. With this ring I pledge myself to you, for as long as I shall live.

Or

I give you this ring as a sign of our mutual love and respect.

9. (Unity Candle ceremony) (Optional)

This is also an extension of the Vow ceremony where the couple each take a candle, lighting their own and then each lighting one single candle simultaneously, with their individual candles, signifying the unity of their love, as the two now become one.

(If you would like to include both families in this ceremony, that is fine. Preferably, have someone light your individual candles just before the ceremony.)

10. Registers (music can be played –optional)

Signing of Register under the Civil Union Act/Marriage Act, takes place in the presence of the guests, or in another room, depending on the venue and nature of the wedding. Two witnesses are required for this, one for each party.

The only *legal* requirement is that the **Registers are signed under a fixed covering/roof**. (structurally fixed). Talk with the Pastor about this. *Music* can be played during the signing. (Optional.)

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Pastor gives the couple the wedding certificate there and then and will usually submit the Registers in the week following the marriage to Home Affairs.

11. **Blessing and Closing Prayer**

Pastor stands with the couple and blesses the couple on their union of marriage and then closes in prayer.

12. **Exiting**

If they couple have an exit song/cd/here is where this will be played.

On exiting the pastor will lead the married couple out of the chapel/ceremony area, and the order recession will be in reverse order to the procession at the beginning of the ceremony

Important Notes:

Please note: that the ceremony is a Christian ceremony and any additional content including vows, will require the residing Pastor's approval, as the ceremony forms part of the covenant making process.

If some of the content suggested by the couple is not "appropriate" based on the pastor's assessment of a ceremony in keeping with her/his beliefs, or that of the church, there is a chance that the wedding could be declined. While this is an exception rather than a rule, we do need to make it known couples, as this forms part of our marriage policy.

We understand that this is based on our theology and respect that other churches may have different guidelines to ours, pertaining to the ceremony/process. In this case, wherever possible we will try to refer the couple to another pastor of another denomination.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please note that the above ceremony will be discussed in one of the premarital counseling sessions and the Pastor will need to give her/his final approval once this meeting takes place.

*Please do not confirm invitations until the pastor has confirmed the **wedding date** with you in writing. If you do so, it will be at your own risk. While the counseling still needs to take place as the final step and is usually a formality, please note, that this will still need to be a part of the final decision making process.*

Once the ceremony is performed and the registers have been given to Home Affairs, it will be the couple's responsibility to follow up with them as to the registration.

Home affairs information to check your registrations: SMS the number: 32551. SMS "M" space, insert your ID number; and you will receive a response from HA within minutes of your marital status.

Or, you can check on their **website** under "marital status" to see if they have entered your new marital status onto their database and register. Their website address: <http://www.home-affairs.gov.za>

Kind Regards & Blessings

Rev. Deborah Bell

Senior Pastor

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