

Renewal of Vows Ceremony

June 11, 2016

1 Welcome Statement

Minister: Jen and Rob, it my pleasure to share this special occasion with you. Many believe that marriage is the last big milestone in a relationship. But, the wedding day isn't intended to be the final step at all. Really (as I'm sure you've learned by now) your wedding was just the beginning. Despite plenty of challenges, you've made it far enough that we are now blessed today with the opportunity to renew the vows you made before God all those years ago.

As the Bible reminds us in Corinthians,

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails."

At this time, we thank family and friends for joining us to celebrate this vow renewal. If you were fortunate enough to attend the ceremony all those years ago during which Jen and Rob initially entered into marriage, how fortunate you are to have been able to witness the love and mutual respect these two have cultivated. Today, we are honored to witness Jen and Rob recommit themselves to one another as a symbolic commemoration of their continued devotion.

2 Wedding Sermon

Minister: When you were married, you likely received advice about building a relationship that would withstand the test of time. Take a moment to

acknowledge and appreciate that, by virtue of your standing here before me today, that you have passed this test with flying colors. The road continues, however. You must continue to cherish one another, and you must continue to, upon the foundations of the last few years, actively build an even stronger relationship. All the lessons you've learned in that time, lessons of love, forgiveness, and trust, you must continue to cultivate.

As you face the challenges of the years to come, remember the things you did that brought you each to this place. Always be there to provide the support, encouragement, and refuge that your partner needs. Be present in your love and devoted to your mutual commitment. This vow renewal ceremony provides you with the opportunity to, in front of your loved ones, strengthen those sacred bonds, and reaffirm the promises made in your hearts on your wedding day.

3 Exchange of Vows

Minister: Jen and Rob, at this time I would invite you to share the vows renewing your commitment with one another. Jen, would you like to begin?

Jen: Marriage is a fragile thing, and one that has lasted as long as ours is a precious rarity, to be held carefully and cherished forever. I chose you before, and today I choose you again. Not because I should, not because it is expected, but because my love for you is even deeper and richer than it was the day I married you. I choose you again gladly without reservation. I hereby reaffirm my vows to love you, to comfort you, to honor you, and to keep you.

Minister: Rob, your turn.

Rob: Marriage is a fragile thing, and one that has lasted as long as ours is a precious rarity, to be held carefully and cherished forever. I chose you before, and today I choose you again. Not because I should, not because it is expected, but because my love for you is even deeper and richer than it was the day I married you. I choose you again gladly without reservation. I hereby reaffirm my vows to love you, to comfort you, to honor you, and to keep you.

4 Declaration of Intent

Minister: Jen and Rob please join hands.

Jen, will you continue to have Rob as your husband, and recommit to hold him close and cherish your relationship together?

Jen: I do.

Rob, will you continue to have Jen as your wife, and recommit to hold her close and cherish your relationship together?

Rob: I do.

Jen please repeat after me.

I Jen, take you, Rob by the hand, and reaffirm my love for you.
I will love, cherish, and honor you in all the experiences that we have in life. This love will continue through sickness and health, riches and poverty, for better or worse, so long as we both shall live.

Rob, please repeat after me.

I Rob, take you, Jen by the hand, and reaffirm my love for you.
I will love, cherish, and honor you in all the experiences that we have in life. This love will continue through sickness and health, riches and poverty, for better or worse, so long as we both shall live.

5 Candle-Lighting

Jen and Rob, while the words you have spoken have sealed your union, it is the lighting of the unity candle that truly symbolizes the melding of your two souls. At this time Jen and Rob should each receive a pre-lit taper candle. You hold in your hands a single flame.

Allow this flame to represent your life: every thought that's ever crossed your mind, and every word that's ever crossed your lips; all of your victories, and all of your failures; all of your joys, and all of your sorrows. And now, tilt these candles forward to light the center candle. Jen and Rob should tilt their candles forward, lighting a larger candle centered between them.

Watch as the two flames instantly form one. So too, today, have your two spirits come together to form one singular entity. Just as your combined flame illuminates the space around it, let your magnificent union radiate with love and light your path as you move forward through life.

6 Pronouncement

Minister: I hereby pronounce Jen and Rob as still being happily married! Your vows renewed, may your marriage move forward and become stronger than you ever imagined.

7 Kiss

Minister: Rob, at this time I would invite you to please seal the renewal of your vows with a kiss!

8 Presentation

Minister: Ladies and gentlemen, I'm delighted to present to you Mr. and Mrs. Jen and Rob Farmer, committed again to one another before God. From this day forth, may their joys be plenty and their worries few as their love continues to grow.