

## THE PROCESSIONAL

### WELCOME

Dearly Beloved.

We are gathered here today to honor the union of Megan and Anthony together in marriage.

You all have been invited to be here today, to bear witness to this ceremony solemnifying their Everlasting bond.

### STATEMENT OF CONSENT

Anthony Nicolas DeCausemaker and Megan Elizabeth Borruso,  
do you come here of your own free will,  
to be united in marriage, forevermore?

If so, say "Yes, we do"

### STATEMENT OF MARRIAGE

Throughout the ages, countless have attempted to answer the timeless question, "What is Love?" When I spoke with the bride and Groom, it was Megan who offered the words of Bell Hooks, from *all about love*, who says:

"The moment we choose to love,  
we begin to move

against domination.  
against oppression.

The moment we choose to love  
we begin to move towards freedom,  
to act in ways that liberate ourselves and others.

That action  
is the testimony of love, as the practice of freedom...

When we choose to love,  
we choose to move against fear,  
against alienation  
[against] separation.

The choice to love  
is a choice to connect

to find ourselves

in the other.

As we grow and change through our lives, so too does our bond--*through Love*.  
That which we cannot tolerate alone, is much more easily endured together,  
*through Love*.

And that which we could not pursue alone, is attainable together, through the  
*Art of Marriage*, which states:

It is the little things, that are the big things.  
It is never being too old to learn and grow.

It is at no time taking the other for granted;  
the adventure should not end with the honeymoon,  
it should continue throughout all of your years.

It is setting a mutual set of goals, objectives, and values.

It is doing for each other--not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the  
spirit of Harmony.

It is forming a circle of love, that gathers the whole community.

It is establishing a partnership in which the independence is equal,  
the dependence is mutual,  
and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is sharing a sense of humor, a sense of wonder, and a sense of purpose.  
It expressing and showing Love, as often as you can.

It is the common search for not only the answers,  
but the questions, that reveal the truth and beauty of  
Life's greatest mysteries.

Finally, it is not only MARRYING the right partner,  
but BEING the right partner.

## EXPLANATION OF THE HANDFASTING

For those who may not be familiar, a Handfasting ceremony recognizes that love,  
like life, is dynamic.

Traditionally, these ceremonies were done in Celtic lands, and vows could be  
taken for a year, or they could be taken forever, because those Celtic ancestors  
understood that love changes from moment to moment, and that every couple is  
unique - as is every relationship.

Megan and Anthony have chosen to commit to one another today for the rest of  
their lives, but they understand that the love they commit to is dynamic and

fluid, and what we celebrate is the eternal connection between their souls, no matter what physical form their love may take.

## **Declaration of Intent**

Megan, Anthony, let there be no mistake. While the tradition of handbinding recognizes and accepts love as dynamic in nature, it is not to be entered into lightheartedly, because it is a sacred vow.

The vows you make today signify that your souls are bound eternally, whether or not your bodies are. You make these vows today with the understanding that you are committing to be a partner to one another, and to honor the connection your souls now share with one another. These vows are sacred, and they should not easily be broken, as you make them to one another in the sight of these loved ones as witnesses.

Knowing this, Anthony Nicolas DeCausemaker and Megan Elizabeth Borruso, is it your intent to enter into this commitment to one another?

If so, say "We do."

## **Handbinding Ceremony**

Then let us begin.

Megan and Anthony, you will be making six vows in total to one another before all gathered here today. For each, I will ask for your commitment, to which you both shall respond together, "I will."

OFFICIANT: Will you share in eachother's pain, and seek to protect the other from it and ease them of it?

BOTH: I will.

OFFICIANT: Then let the binding be so.

OFFICIANT: Will you share in eachother's pain, and seek to protect him/her/them from it and ease him/her/them of it?

Both: I will

OFFICIANT: Then let the binding be so.

OFFICIANT: Will you share in eachother's joy, rejoice in it with the other, and look for the best in them always?

Both: I will

OFFICIANT: Then let the binding be so.

OFFICIANT: Will you share in eachother's hardships and toil, so that the two of you may grow together?

BOTH: I will.

OFFICIANT: Then let the binding be so.

OFFICIANT: Will you share in eachother's dreams and work with the other to fulfill them?

BOTH: I will.

OFFICIANT: Then let the binding be so.

OFFICIANT: Will you use your anger to strengthen and temper the bond between you?

BOTH: I will.

OFFICIANT: Then let the binding be so.

OFFICIANT: Will you honor and respect eachother, treating the other as an equal in this bond?

BOTH: I will

OFFICIANT: Then let the binding be so.

## EXCHANGE OF THE RINGS

Anthony, what token of devotion do you offer your beloved?

Place the ring upon her finger, and repeat after me:

"With this Ring" / "I Thee Wed"

And Megan, what token of devotion do you offer your beloved?

Place the ring upon his finger, and repeat after me:

"With this Ring" / "I Thee Wed"

## EXPLANATION OF THE RINGS

The wedding ring is a circle, the symbol of unity. A circle has no beginning. A circle has no end. These rings symbolize the joining of two lives in an unbroken circle, in which no matter what direction you go, you always come back together.

Those of you who are already joined in Marriage or partnership may want to silently renew and reaffirm **YOUR OWN VOWS** today, by taking the hand of your partner during the ceremony. Others in relationships, kinships, or friendships may too want to join hands, and reflect upon your own bonds--with eachother, and with the bride and groom--for marriage is first built upon friendship.

## THE EXCHANGE OF VOWS

And Now:

OFFICIANT: ANTHONY, Do you promise on this day to share Megan's pain, her joy, her burdens, and her dreams, and to help her navigate the maze of life together." If so, say "I Do."

OFFICIANT: MEGAN, Do you promise on this day to share Anthony's pain, his joy, his burdens, and his dreams, and to help him navigate the maze of life together." If so, say "I Do."

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE

Megan and Anthony, you have exchanged vows, you have exchanged rings, and you have consented to be wed before this gathering, therefore, having proclaimed the bond of your souls together in the sight of these witnesses, and based on the strength of that bond, and the power vested in me, I now pronounce you Husband and Wife!

**You May Seal your Bond with a Kiss!**

## THE PRESENTATION

Friends and Family gathered here today, it is my privilege to present to you for the very first time, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony and Megan DeCausemaker!

## THE RECESSIONAL



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