



Deo Gloria Family Church

A church for all people

PBO No. / 930025589

Services every Sunday at 10am – 43 Armstrong Ave, La Lucia, Durban

Outline of 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 perform.

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.

Wedding Planner: _____

Photographer/Videographer: _____

Music: _____

Venue Parking arrangement for pastor: _____

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.

Mother or father of the bride/groom to accompany Bride/groom? (This can be any person of your choice if not a parent.)

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 15-20 minutes.

5. **Introduction to the Vows and Legal Declaration**



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In this part the couple is asked to declare their love for one another by answering the question posed by the pastor. (This section has to be asked according to law and many marriage officers have integrated this to be part of the vows, as we do. 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).

(Ceremony of the Vows includes the legal Declaration): often is considered part of the ceremony of the Vows

(Couple will answer I do)

If you then & have freely and deliberately chosen each other as partners in this Holy union of marriage; and know of no just or legal cause why you should not be so united, will you please join your (right/ hands)

Do you....., declare before God and before these witnesses, that you take....., to be your lawfully wedded spouse in this covenant called marriage; to love her/him, to honour her/him, for richer or poorer, in sickness & in health, to cherish her/him, cleaving only to her/him, and in all things being true and faithful as long as you shall live? - *I do*

Do you....., declare before God and before these witnesses, that you take....., to be your lawfully wedded spouse in this covenant called marriage; to love her/him, to honour her/him and to cherish her/him, cleaving only to her/him, and in all things being true and faithful as long as you shall live? - *I do*

(Answer: *I do* each person will repeat and answer)

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, husband/wife/spouse as we continue on this journey, of our lives together in marriage.

I promise to love, honour & respect you, as the beautiful person, that you are, and as the partner, that God has brought, into my life, to share my destiny, & future with, (in Christ), on this earth.

Everything I am, I give to you, everything I will be, is yours forever.



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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.

In so much as you agreed together, to enter into this Holy Covenant of Marriage, and have given and received rings in token and pledge of your love for one another; having made a commitment to love and honour one another throughout your earthly lives; By the power vested in me I now declare you, lawfully married in accordance with the laws of this country. (Congratulations) You may kiss your wife/husband/spouse

9. (Unity Candle ceremony) (Optional) (choose a soft soothing or romantic song for this moment-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, as this can be flexible to a point. *Music* can be played during the signing. (Optional.)

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.



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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 counselling 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 counselling 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 of the given marriage.

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. (Please note that they do charge a rate for this sms.)

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>

All the best with your wedding planning!

Kind Regards & Blessings

Apostle (Pastor) Deborah Bell
Lead Pastor - Deo Gloria Family Church