

The below ceremony was created for a Christian couple to focus mostly on their relationship while also bringing God into the picture. They selected one of my existing template ceremonies as well as returned my Personality Questionnaire with ample personal info. The review left by the couple after the ceremony was:

"I am so happy that Aaron was able to perform our wedding ceremony! He was so professional and provided my husband and I with a ceremony that was intimate and personal. My guests thought we had known Aaron for a long time, and that alone speaks volumes about his personal touch."

Ceremony Script

Michael & LaShundra
October 26, 2014 @ 4:15 pm

Processional

- 1) Officiant enters from the side.
- 2) Groom enters first down the aisle.
- 3) Other items: TBD by couple

Opening

Officiant: "On behalf of LaShundra and Michael, welcome. We are gathered here, not to witness the beginning of what will be, but rather what already is! Today's ceremony is a celebration of the wondrous and joyful occurrence that has already taken place in the lives of these two individuals as well as the commitment they make today.

All of you have been asked to participate because you hold some special place in the lives of Michael and LaShundra. You may be family members from whom they've learned throughout life, or you may be friends who help them to make it through their daily lives. Whatever role you may play, we ask that you enter into this ceremony in a spirit of prayer, mindful that your support, friendship and love will be vital to the strength and success of their relationship. Thank you all for being here.

(The couple will give flowers and hugs during or after the following words)

Michael and LaShundra would also like to take time to specially acknowledge their parents Vera and Dorothy on this occasion. They offer their profound gratitude to you for all the love and care you showed in raising them. The

unconditional gifts of love and support that you have continually offered have inspired them to become who they are today, and they thank you, from the bottom of their hearts, for guiding them to this celebration of love here today. Without you, this day would not be possible.”

Personal Words

Officiant: “Before moving on to the more formal parts of the ceremony I would like to share a little about the couple based on what they have shared with me.

LaShundra and Michael share many goals and values in common. They prioritize family and the support and encouragement they would like to give to their children. They see their life together as one full of possibilities, lived as best friends and helpers to one another, and fueled and sustained by a healthy and honest relationship, hard work, faith and prayer. They look towards their future as an opportunity to find success and happiness not separately but as a team.

Among other things, LaShundra loves Michael for his enthusiasm for life and his ability to make her feel safe as the strong man that he is outside and the sincere man that he is inside. And in LaShundra, Michael knows that he’s marrying a teammate, someone who is faithful enough to stick by his side through thick and thin as she already has to this day.

Their first brush with one another happened 26 yrs. ago when they met as freshmen in college but did not start a relationship. Over a decade later, they crossed paths by chance and enjoyed a conversation, though they were both in relationships at the time.

Finally, in 2004 they were both single. Mike bumped into a mutual friend, asked her for LaShundra’s phone number, and that same night called and asked her out for their first date.

LaShundra recalls how instantly attracted she was as she waited for Mike to approach the table where she sat. Having been on a few first dates before, Mike had a plan and was carrying a rose for her. LaShundra appreciated the quality of a man with a plan. And that was the beginning of a night of dinner and music that neither of them wanted to end.

It was the first of hundreds of dates, and they took their time through the normal ups and downs, stops and starts to come to this day of formal commitment. But all the while, LaShundra knew that Michael was the man that she’d marry. And after all of this time get to know her in so many different ways Michael knows that he’s never loved a woman the way that he loves LaShundra.

Today is the opportunity for all of us to celebrate and support them as they take the next big step in the story of their life together.

Reading

Officiant: "LaShundra and Michael, true marriage is more than joining the bonds of marriage of two persons; it is the union of two hearts. It lives on the love you give each other and never grows old, but thrives on the joy of each new day. Marriage is love.

May you always be able to talk things over, to confide in each other, to laugh with each other, to enjoy life together, and to share moments of quiet and peace, when the day is done. May you be blessed with a lifetime of happiness and a home of warmth and understanding.

Remember to treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together. Take responsibility for making the other feel safe, and give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves.

When frustration, difficulty and fear assail your relationship, as they threaten all relationships at some time or another, remember to focus on what is right between you, not just the part that seems wrong. In this way, you can survive the times when clouds drift across the face of the sun in your lives, remembering that, just because you may lose sight of it for a moment, does not mean the sun has gone away.

And, if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight."

Vows

Officiant: "Do you, Michael, choose LaShundra to be your wife, to support and respect her in her successes as well as her failures, to care for her in sickness and in health, to nurture her, and to grow with her throughout the seasons of your life together?"

Michael: "I do."

Officiant: "Do you, LaShundra, choose Michael to be your husband, to support and respect him in his successes as well as his failures, to care for him in sickness and in health, to nurture him, and to grow with him throughout the seasons of your life together?"

LaShundra: "I do."

Exchange of rings

Officiant: “Please bring the rings forward at this time.”

(The rings are handed to the officiant)

Officiant: “Lord, we ask that you bless these rings as symbols of the commitment being made today between LaShundra and Michael. Please bless this couple with the strength to overcome by love all of the obstacles that the future may hold.”

(The Officiant hands the rings to the couple)

Officiant: “Michael, please repeat after me:

I give you this ring as a symbol of my love for you. Let it be a reminder that I am always by your side ■ and that I will always be a faithful partner to you.”

(The ring is placed on the ring finger of the left hand)

Officiant: “LaShundra, please repeat after me:

I give you this ring as a symbol of my love for you. Let it be a reminder that I am always by your side ■ and that I will always be a faithful partner to you.”

(The ring is placed on the ring finger of the left hand)

Officiant: "Wedding rings are made precious by our wearing them. Your rings say that even in your uniqueness you have chosen to be bound together. Let these rings also be a sign that love has substance as well as soul, a present as well as a past, and that, despite its occasional sorrows, love is a circle of happiness, wonder, and delight.

May these rings remind you always of the vows that you have taken here today."

Unity Candle Ceremony

At the Officiant’s indication, the couple and their mothers proceed to the table.

Each mother holds an unlit candle. The mother's use those candles to light the couples’ candles, which is followed by the couple lighting the larger unity candle simultaneously with their respective candles.

Officiant: “On this day you make a new light together, symbolizing the two becoming one. May you also continue to recognize that separateness from which

your relationship has sprung. May the lights of your own special lives continue to feed the new flame of love which will fuel your future together -- through all its hopes and disappointments, its successes and failures, its pleasures and its pains, its joys and its sorrows -- a future filled with the warmth and love of the flame you share today.”

Final Prayer & Blessing

Officiant: “Finally, to conclude this ceremony if those who would like to would please join me in a mood of prayer as I make this request for Michael and LaShundra. Whether participating or not in this prayer, let’s all enter into the spirit of supporting them as individuals and as a newlywed couple.

Father, we ask that that these two individuals joined here today in marriage be gifted the ability to be considerate and helpful to one another in all ways. May they be strong and complement one another. May they be blessed with the necessities of life.

May they be truly happy as individuals and also blessed with a happy family life. May they live together in harmony, true to both their personal values and their joint promises. And, may they always be the best of friends.

All of this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.”

Declaration of Marriage

Officiant: “And now, by the power vested in me, I hereby pronounce you husband and wife. Michael, you may kiss your bride.”

Then the first kiss and introduction of the newly joined couple to the attendees:

Officiant: "Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you Michael and Lashundra (name removed for privacy).”