**The Reverend Rebecca A. Nagy**

[*http://www.acharlotteweddingminister.com*](http://www.acharlotteweddingminister.com)

**Ceremony Planning Questionnaire**

**Please email back to me:** **revrebeccan@gmail.com**

**PLEASE TELL ME HOW YOU FOUND ME:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Wedding date: Ceremony Time:**  |
| **Date of Rehearsal: Time of Rehearsal:** |
| **Wedding Venue:** |
| **Name of Wedding Director: Phone Number:** |
| **Wedding Director’s E-Mail:** |
| **Brides Full Legal Name:** |
| Do you have a nickname you want used in the ceremony?  |
| Brides address: |
| Bride's Home Phone: cell phone: work #: ext. |
| Bride's E-Mail:  |
| Employer: Position: |
| Bride's Date of Birth: Age on Wedding Day: Is This Your First Marriage? |
| Children? Ages Names:  |
| Is the Bride: religious: spiritual: neither: |
| **Groom's Full Legal Name:** |
| Do you have a nickname you want used in the ceremony?  |
| Grooms address: |
| Groom's Home Phone: cell phone: work #: ext. |
| Groom's E-Mail:  |
| Employer: Position: |
| Groom's Date of Birth: Age on Wedding Day: Is This Your First Marriage? |
| Children? Ages Names:  |
| Is the Groom: religious: spiritual: neither: |

|  |
| --- |
| **Is there any reason why you may not legally be married?** |
| Site at Your Wedding: please highlight *all* that apply: |
| Inside -- Outside: Home -- Church -- Park -- Hotel -- Club -- Hall -- Museum -- Bed-And-Breakfast -- Historic Site |
| Other: |
| What State Is Ceremony in? What **County** Is Ceremony in? |
| Name of Venue: Address of Venue: |
| Site Contact Person: Phone Number & ext.: |
| Phone Number to Reach You **on Your Wedding Day:** |

**Let's Discuss Your Ceremony Preferences**

|  |
| --- |
| Will your wedding be: ❑ Formal ❑ Semiformal ❑ Informal ❑ Casual |
| Is yours an Interfaith wedding? ❑ Yes ❑ No A Multicultural Wedding? ❑ Yes ❑ No |
|  If so, please specify: |
|  Would you like to include any specific traditions from your culture or religion? |
|  |
| Do you desire your ceremony to be: ❑ Secular-Civil ❑ a nonreligious ceremony only |
|  ❑ Religious -- it's so what denomination ❑ Spiritual not heavily religious |
|  ❑ Other |
| Is it permissible to use the terms: ❑ Spirit ❑ Creator ❑ The Divine ❑ God ❑ Heavenly Father |
| Is it permissible to you include: ❑ Prayer? ❑ Blessing? |
| How many attendants are in your wedding party? Bridesmaids Groomsmen |
| Are their children in your wedding party? Ring bearer/s Age/s Flower Girl/s Age/s |
| Additional members of wedding party: |
| **Will Someone Accompany the Bride down the Aisle? Who?** |
| **Bride:** |
| **Tell me about your parents: Are they together/ separated/divorced? Names:** |
|  **Siblings: Names and their spouses if applicable:** |
| **Groom:** |
| **Tell me about your parents: Are they together/ separated/divorced? Names:** |
|  **Siblings: Names and their spouses if applicable:** |

**Ceremony Vendors:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Vendor**  | **Name** | **Email Address** | **Phone number** |
| **Coordinator/Planner** |  |  |  |
| **Photographer** |  |  |  |
| **Videographer** |  |  |  |
| **Flowers** |  |  |  |
| **Cake** |  |  |  |
| **Live Music** |  |  |  |
| **DJ** |  |  |  |

**Some Ideas for Your Wedding Ceremony Order of Service**

Many couples have used this as a **typical order of events** for a wedding ceremony. Since it is **your wedding**, you should feel free to add, delete, or alter the sequence of these events. ***When I meet with you to plan your wedding, we will discuss many of the options available to you. This will make your ceremony customized personal and uniquely yours.***

* Guests are seated (Prelude [music](http://www.chicagomarriage.com/wedding_music.htm) playing)
* Honored guests enter and are seated
* Grandparents/Parents of the Partner 1 and Partner 2 are seated
* Reverend Nagy, Partner 2 and Best Man enter and proceed to the front
* The Bridal party enters and proceeds to the front
* The Ring Bearer and/or Flower Girl enter, proceed to front
* Music concludes for bridal party
* **Reverend Nagy asks the audience to rise and welcome the Partner 1**
* Music begins for the Partner 1’s entrance (Processional music)
* The Partner 1 and her escort enter, and are met by the Partner 2
* Partner 1’s music concludes.
* Opening Welcome and commentary by Reverend Nagy
* Presentation of Partner 1 by Escort
* Commemorative Candle(Optional)
* Opening Prayer/Invocation
* First reading ([religious](http://www.chicagomarriage.com/readings2.htm) or [romantic](http://www.chicagomarriage.com/readings_other.htm) literature -- optional)
* [Musical interlude](http://www.chicagomarriage.com/wedding_music.htm) (solo, etc.)
* **Reverend Nagy's Address**
* Second reading (optional)
* Special music (musical interlude, or musical and vocal performance -- optional)
* "Declarations Of Intent" by Partner 1 and Partner 2 (I Do’s)
* Exchange of wedding vows (traditional or customized)
* Blessing of the rings/Exchange of wedding rings (traditional or customized)
* Audience recites Lord's Prayer (Roman Catholic or Protestant version -- optional)
* Minister's prayer of blessing/benediction for the Partner 1 and Partner 2
* Partner 1 and Partner 2 light Unity Candle -- or other ritual ([music](http://www.chicagomarriage.com/wedding_music.htm) in background -- optional)
* Final commentary
* Partner 1 and Partner 2 kiss
* Introduction of the new couple by the Minister
* Recessional [music](http://www.chicagomarriage.com/wedding_music.htm) begins
* Partner 1 and Partner 2 exit
* Bridal party exits.
* Minister's instructions to the audience.
* Signing of the marriage license
* Pictures!

**Brief Explanations of Traditions You May Want To Add To Your Customized Ceremony**

(Please highlight your choices)

❑ Commemorative Candle

In memory of your loved ones who have passed to spirit that normally would have been at this happy event – a parent, grandparent, a close relative or friend – and/or those who could not travel to with us today. This is done with reverence and respect in no way detracts from the joyful event of the day. If the wedding is outdoors, we can simply pause for moment of silence.

You may also have a vase of flowers with a note in your program.

❑ Thanking Parents

At an appropriate time in the ceremony, I would make mention of how you love and appreciate the support of your parents. We could also mention your siblings and their spouses if they are married. I would remind them that is their blood that is joined as well. This is a good way to include the families. I usually do this as part of my address.

❑ Children’s Vows

If you are creating a new family you may want to include the children in the exchange of vows as well, especially if they are younger. This gives them an extra sense of security as the two families are blended into one. I have several ideas for you to look at as we design your ceremony.

❑ Unity Candle Ceremony

The unity candle lighting ceremony is becoming more and more common in today’s weddings. The ceremony symbolizes the pledge of unity between the Partner 1 and Partner 2 and the merging of two families. It usually occurs after the exchanging of rings and before the couple is pronounced husband and wife. Usually the mothers light their tapers before taking their seats, usually to a special piece of music. When the Partner 1 and Partner 2 light the center candle, a song is sung or played. They either take a few minutes up by the altar to exchange a few words or they can take a flower that was placed by the candle and present it to their mothers.

If you are creating a new family you may want to include the children in the lighting of the Unity Candle. Often this is done by having the Partner 1 and Partner 2 light the taper for the children and then everyone lighting the center candle together. This is a good way to involve children from a previous marriage.

❑ Unity Sand Ceremony

If you choose not to use a Unity Candle during your ceremony, the sand ceremony can be a beautiful and meaningful addition to your vows. Simply find three containers, one for you and your fiancé to pour the sand into, two for each of you to pour the sand from. You can find colored sand at most craft stores.

❑ Rose Ceremony

The *Rose Ceremony* is simple yet profoundly moving.  The Partner 1 and Partner 2 exchange two roses, symbolizing the giving and receiving of their love for each other throughout their entire married life.  The *Rose Ceremony* also conveys how to use the rose and its symbolism in difficult times in order to forgive each other. Your mothers may also be included as a sign of respect and gratitude.

❑ Blessing Cup/Wine Ceremony/Unity Cup/Love Letters & Wine Box

Similar in concept to a Unity Candle in the Christian Tradition, or the Kiddush Cup in the Jewish Tradition, the Wine Ceremony is common to many faiths and traditions and will be customized according to your wishes. In general: The Wine Ceremony can be divided into two parts. The presenting of the two individual carafes filled with red and white wine to be placed on the table near the larger empty carafe during the processional. Then part two the pouring of the two separate wines into the empty carafe and drinking the combined wine by the wedding couple. Part two follows the exchange of vows. The ceremony can be one part with the wine already sitting on the table and the couple just combining the wines before drinking them.

❑ Breaking of Glass

A ceremony incorporating the stepping on a goblet at the end of the ceremony and breaking it. The guests all shout “Mozel Tov” which mean “Good Luck”, when the Partner 2 breaks the glass. Traditionally a Jewish practice.

❑ Jumping The Broom

A typically African-American tradition in which the couple, when about to leave the ceremony, jump over a decorated broom which in place on the floor in front to them as they leave. This symbolizes “sweeping away the old” and entering into their new lives together.

❑ Wreath Ceremony

This wreath symbolizes the vows of marriage that Partner 1 and Partner 2 have taken. It will decorate their home and remind them of the love shared by all of us here today. The wreath is made from ivy, a traditional symbol of Matrimony and Friendship. I will explain all the symbolism of the wreath and the various flowers that can be used to incorporate into the wreath, which would be brought up by various members of the family or friends. A great way to include many people in the ceremony, as well as including nature.

❑ Hand Fasting

This is a typically Celtic tradition and where the term “tying the knot” came from. After your vows, I loosely wrap cords or ribbons, which you provide, around your hands, which are held in left hand to left hand and right hand to right hand (forming the symbol of eternity) and talk about how you are now bound and this now shall never be undone.

❑ Congregational Declaration of Support

I have you face your family and guests and ask that they support you and your marriage. It is a nice way to include everyone.

❑ Vow Renewals for Couples in the Congregation

This is a good way to include those who are married that are attending your ceremony to share in a deeper way your wedding celebration.

**Any Other Rituals/Special Traditions Not Included Above:**