

Interfaith Wedding Ministry

For over 10 years I have created and performed many very carefully planned, deeply meaningful wedding ceremonies. There is nothing more important to a strong marriage than a beautiful and personally inspiring wedding ceremony. By offering you my experience as a guide, my goal is to provide the two of you with the opportunity to create a wedding that will enrich your life together. By offering you the choice of different ways to put your wedding ceremony together, and by offering my experience as a guide, your ceremony will express who you are in the most lyrical terms, as well as the depth and breadth of your intentions and commitments to one another. A wedding ceremony created with great care gives your family and guests a wonderful demonstration of just why your relationship is so good. It provides the two of you with a bonding day experience based on love, honesty, and caring, that will sustain you in substantial ways as you live and grow together in your marriage.

This work serves people of all religions, spiritual paths and life philosophies. I did my ministerial studies in spiritual counseling at the New Seminary in New York City, New York. The New Seminary was founded 25 years ago by Rabbi Joseph Gelberman, with the help of a Catholic Priest, a Muslim Imam and many other devout and well-educated people from a variety of walks of life. The seminary's purpose is to train people to serve the varied spiritual needs of our modern world by creating bridges between cultures and traditions based on the understanding that they meet one another in the ultimate spiritual truths of our world. I graduated and was ordained as an Interfaith Minister in 1993.

I have a personal ministry serving those who wish to plan special ceremonies marking important events in their families: weddings, funerals, blessingways for expecting mothers, baby dedications, and other rites of passage. In addition, I offer spiritual direction, pre-marital and private counseling.

Wedding work often begins with an introductory phone call during which we get to know one another. I next meet with the two of you for a longer session. During that meeting, we go over a copy of a very unique and lovely marriage ceremony, the core of which was beautifully composed by two deans from my seminary. I give or send you that along with a collection of readings and rituals from various religious, secular, and spiritual traditions for you to consider using in your ceremony. The choices I guide you to make will be based on who each of you are as individuals, what beliefs you hold and the specifics of your commitments to one another. And in the process, I will begin to learn who each of you are as individuals, what beliefs you hold, and the specifics of your commitments to one another. If I have that, then any guidance I offer you will come from that understanding.

We can use the ceremony as it is written or you can choose to use only some of its elements & rituals as a part of your wedding day ceremony. I invite you to make suggestions for any deletions or changes you would prefer. You might choose to write your own vows. You can write any of your changes or additions yourselves, or ask me to write them since I love to write. Or, perhaps you have plans for how you see the whole ceremony coming together. I can help by guiding the order of its elements into a smooth progression and

helping polish it into a finished marriage ceremony. Whatever you choose to do, I'll assist you as much or as little as your needs dictate. This wedding is yours and should reflect what the two of you wish to express.

This work requires time and great care during our meetings and outside of them for me, and to some degree for you. I will use my many years of experience and all my resources to see that your wedding and your marriage are well and deeply served by the work that I do for you.

And as I get to know you in our planning sessions, I can offer you guidance, which can lead to the opportunity for deeper exploration of your relationship. I can offer you some insightful tools for personal growth to assist you in building a still stronger foundation for your marriage. It is important to me that you get the strongest start possible. I also know that you must make your own choices together for that strength to be fully realized. And to support you in the future, I will also commit myself to being of service to you in any way I can be as your married life continues to unfold after your wedding day.

Many Blessing,

Rev. Donna