

Appendix

A. Application for Membership

“Friends receive into active membership those whose faith in Christ as a personal Saviour is manifest in their lives and who are in unity with the teachings of Christian truth as held by Friends.” *Faith and Practice*, Part II, Chapter 1.

On the basis of the above statement, accepting Jesus Christ as my Saviour, declaring it to be my purpose to devote my life to His service and to follow His teachings, agreeing to observe the rules and practices of Friends, and to be loyal to the interests of this Meeting, I do hereby make application for membership in _____ Monthly Meeting of Friends.

Date _____, 20____

Signed _____

Signed _____

Approved by the Meeting on Ministry and Counsel and recommended to the Monthly Meeting.

Date _____, 20____

Signed _____ Clerk

B. Removal Certificate

(One Monthly Meeting to Another)

To _____ Monthly Meeting of Friends:

Dear Friends:

This is to certify that _____ is a member of this Meeting. Upon due inquiry no obstruction appears to the granting of _____ request for a certificate to your Meeting. We therefore recommend _____ to your Christian care. Please acknowledge h____ reception by returning to our clerk the annexed statement, properly filled and signed.

In love, we are your Friends,

By direction, and on behalf of _____ Monthly Meeting of Friends, held at _____ State of _____, this _____ day of _____ month, 20____.

_____, Clerk

_____, Address

Acknowledgment

To _____ Monthly Meeting of Friends:

We have received the removal certificate issued by you the _____ day of _____ month 20____ and have accepted _____ into membership with us.

In behalf of _____ Monthly Meeting of Friends, held at _____, this _____ day of _____ month 20____.

_____, Clerk

C. Letter to Other Denominations

To _____ Church:

_____ and _____, member(s) of _____ Monthly Meeting of Friends, having expressed the desire to unite in membership with the above named Church, this letter of dismissal is granted in favor of said Church, and he (she) is [they are] commended to your Christian fellowship.

By direction of _____ Monthly Meeting,

_____, Clerk

_____, Address

D. Form of Affirmation

I affirm that I will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

E. Marriage Vows

(Within the Meeting)

At a suitable time in the meeting the parties shall stand, and taking each other by the right hand shall declare — the man first:

“In the presence of the Lord and before these friends, I take thee, D. E.,

to be my wife promising, with divine assistance, to be unto thee a loving and faithful husband as long as we both shall live.”

The woman in like manner:

“In the presence of the Lord before these friends, I take thee, A. B., to be my husband, promising, with divine assistance to be unto thee a loving and faithful wife as long as we both shall live.”

F. Certificate of Marriage

of _____, and State of _____

WHEREAS, A. B., of _____ County, son of C. B., and E., his wife, of _____, and D. E., of _____, County of _____ and State of _____, daughter of H. E., and K., his wife, of _____, having declared their intention of marriage with each other to the _____ Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends of _____ held at _____, State of _____ on the _____ day of the _____ month of the year two thousand and _____, and nothing being found to obstruct, they were set at liberty by that Meeting to accomplish their intentions.

NOW THESE ARE TO CERTIFY to whom it may concern, that for the accomplishment of their marriage, this _____ day of the _____ month of the year two thousand and _____, they the said A. B. and D. E., appeared in an appointed meeting held at _____ under the oversight of the _____ Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends in the presence of a committee thereof appointed for that purpose, and A. B., taking D. E. by the hand, declared that he took her to be his wife, promising, with divine assistance, to be unto her a loving and faithful husband as long as they both should live; and then D. E. did in a like manner declare that she took him, A. B., to be her husband, promising, with divine assistance, to be unto him a loving and faithful wife as long as they both should live.

And in further confirmation thereof, they, the said A. B. and D. E., (she according to the custom of marriage, adopting the surname of her husband) did then and there to these present set their hands.

_____ A. B.
_____ D. E. B.

AND WE, having been present at the solemnization of the said marriage, did as witness thereto, set our hands.

G. Certificate When Requesting Marriage

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that we are acquainted with _____ of _____ who desires to be married according to the customs of Friends, and that, in our judgment, there is no valid objection to the proposed marriage.

Signed this _____ day of _____ Month 20____.

Elders of _____ Monthly Meeting of Friends.

H. Marriage Service, A Minister Participating

Introductory

Marriage, in its deepest meaning, is an inward experience — the voluntary union of personalities effected in the mutual self-giving of hearts that truly love, implicitly trust, and courageously accept each other in good faith. Such marriage is honored and blessed of God as the fulfillment of His supreme design for man and woman, who alone of all creation bear His divine image. The State sanctions and the Church adorns marriage as the ideal relationship in human society. The wisdom of the ages bears testimony to the beneficent values which this honorable estate yields in the happiness and well being of mankind.

(If the “giving of the bride” is desired, the minister may say:)

“Who among the kinfolk (or friends) of this bride-to-be shares her great joy and presents her to the man of her choice with the benediction of her family?”

The father, brother, or other person will answer: “I do.”

To the Contracting Parties

Marriage involves at once the highest privilege and the greatest responsibilities of life. Its achievements of happiness and success is dependent upon the mutual love, the unflinching patience, and the absolute fidelity of one to the other. You will hence forth live a blended life, each seeking and promoting the joy, the comfort, the health, and the enrichment of the other, all of which will divide your sorrows and multiply your satisfactions.

The Vows of Marriage

If you have carefully considered the sacredness of the obligations assumed when lives are wed, and are well assured that you are prepared to enter into this covenant, binding yourselves each to the other in holy sanctuary of the home as long as you both shall live, will you please face each other, clasp your right hands, and repeat these vows which have brought joy to so many others:

(Each repeat from memory if possible; if not, then follow the minister.)

The man: “In the presence of the Lord, and before these friends, I take thee, (D. E.) to be my wife, promising, with divine assistance, to be unto thee a loving and faithful husband as long as we both shall live.”

The woman: “In the presence of the Lord, and before these friends, I take thee (A. B.) to be my husband, promising with divine assistance, to be unto thee a loving and faithful wife, as long as we both shall live.”

(Unclasp hands and face the minister.)

(If a ring is [or rings are] to be given and received, the minister may say:)

“What do you offer as a token of your pledge of love and loyalty?”

(The groom or attendant places the ring or both place rings, in the minister’s hands, or upon his book, saying simply, “This ring.”)

To the man: “Do you, A. B., offer this ring as a token that you will keep this covenant and perform these vows?”

He answers: “I do.”

To the woman: “Do you, D. E., accept this ring as a token that you will keep this covenant and perform these vows?”

She answers: “I do.”

(In case of a double ring service, the minister may say:)

To both parties: “Do you, A. B., and you, D. E., give and receive these rings as a pledge that you will keep this covenant and perform these vows?”

Together they answer: “We do.”

The minister: “Let this ring [these rings] ever be to you a symbol of the preciousness, the purity, and the permanence of true wedded love.”

Recognition

In recognition of that real marriage between you, accomplished in the uniting of your hearts by mutual love and confidence, and in conformity to the laws of this state by whose sanctions these visible expressions of your pledged fidelity have been given and received, as a minister acknowledged by

the church, I do now recognize you as husband and wife. Those whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.

Prayer by the minister

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

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Alternate Vows

(If more formal vows than those in the foregoing ceremony are desired, the following is suggested:)

To the man: A. B., do you take D. E., whose hand you hold, choosing her alone from all the world, to be your wedded wife? Will you love her and comfort her, support and cherish her in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity, and forsaking all others, remain faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

He answers: "I do."

To the woman: D. E., do you take A. B., whose hand you hold, to be your wedded husband? Will you love him and comfort him in sickness and in health, in sunshine and in storm, and, forsaking all others, remain faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

She answers: "I do."