

# Preparing for Holy Matrimony in The Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh



*Wedding at Cana. Duccio di Buoninsegna (1308-1311)*

## Materials for Remarriage

Revised 2018

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# Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh

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## TO THOSE PREVIOUSLY MARRIED SEEKING PERMISSION FOR A NEW MARRIAGE:

Dear sister or brother in Christ,

Throughout Scripture, marriage is seen as “a lifelong covenant between a man and a woman in which the two become one flesh.... Therefore, the failure of a marriage is always a tragedy” (from the Canons of the Anglican Church in North America). At the same time “Scripture acknowledges our fallen nature and does provide guidance” regarding the dissolution of a marriage and the possibility of subsequent remarriage.

You have been, or the person you believe yourself called to marry has been, married before. Perhaps your previous partner was unfaithful to you, abused you, or abandoned you. Perhaps you were the principal wrong-doer in your previous marriage but had not yet come to faith. It may be possible in such circumstances to consider a new marriage for a new day.

If you desire to be married in the Church, and if your priest concurs in discerning that God is calling you to this marriage, you and your intended will need to do, or have done, the following.

- You must intend a lifelong union.
- You must be seeking God’s help.
- You must be actively worshipping and participating in the life of an Anglican congregation.
- You must have worked through the wounds of the previous marriage and/or have made confession and amends where appropriate.
- You must engage in a program of premarital counseling prescribed by your priest according to the requirements of this diocese.
- You must complete the application forms that follow, seeking my permission as bishop according to the Canons of this Church.

Because of the preciousness of Christian marriage and the sign which it is to the world, it is unlikely that I will give permission when there has been more than one previous marriage—especially if they have occurred in a Christian church with Christian vows. In that situation, it may be best to consider a secular ceremony to which, after a time, the Church might be able to give its blessing and God’s. In any case, you can rest assured that God loves you and that the Church wants to help you walk in His love.

If Christian marriage is what you seek, we do want to help, now and for the rest of your life. The marriage preparation process makes a beginning. The rest of this booklet is designed to assist you and your priest to make this beginning, and to give you the understanding, tools, and God’s grace to succeed in this most common, most transforming vocation.

Faithfully in Christ,

+ Jim

# Provincial Canons on Marriage

## *Title II, Canon 7*

### *Of Christian Marriage*

#### **Section 1**

This section was amended by the Provincial Council and ratified by the Assembly at its meeting on June 29, 2017. It becomes effective on September 27, 2017.

The Anglican Church in North America affirms our Lord's teaching that the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman, binding both to self-giving love and exclusive fidelity. Jesus Christ teaches that God is the author of marriage from the beginning of time. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27; cf. Matthew 19:4-6). God's design for marriage has always involved one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24). Marriage is established by God for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord for mutual joy, and for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; to maintain purity, so that husbands and wives, with all the household of God, might serve as holy and undefiled members of the Body of Christ, and for the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom in family, church and society, to the praise of his holy Name.

#### **Section 2**

It shall be within the discretion of any member of the Clergy to decline to solemnize any marriage.

#### **Section 3**

Members of the Clergy of this Church shall conform to the Canons of this Church governing the solemnization of Holy Matrimony.

1. Both parties shall be baptized. Any exception to this requires the permission of the Bishop;
2. There shall be thirty (30) days' notice of intention to marry unless waived for weighty reasons, in which case the Bishop shall be notified immediately and in writing;
3. The Clergy shall provide counsel to both parties on Holy Matrimony with respect to theological and social implications and responsibilities;
4. The Clergy shall ascertain that the man and woman, parties to the marriage, have a valid marriage license.

#### **Section 4**

As marriage is a lifelong covenant between a man and a woman in which the two become one flesh, it is both an ordinance of Creation, affirmed as such by our Lord, and commended by Saint Paul as a sign of the mystical union between Christ and His Church (Matthew 19:3-9; Ephesians 5:22-32). Therefore, the failure of a marriage is always a tragedy. Scripture acknowledges our fallen nature and does provide guidance to know when a marriage may be declared a nullity or dissolved and allows the possibility of a subsequent marriage in certain circumstances (Matthew 19 and 1 Corinthians 7).

1. Couples who request to be married by a member of the Clergy of this Church must have approval from their Bishop if either party has ever been divorced;
2. When a divorced person seeks permission to remarry, the Clergy must ascertain the pertinent facts concerning a declaration of nullity or termination of marriage; and in the absence of a

declaration of nullity, forward such information to the Bishop in writing for his godly advice and consent;

3. The Diocese is responsible to create a process by which this discernment may be made with reasonable promptness.

### **Section 5**

1. No Clergy knowingly, after due inquiry, shall solemnize any marriage if they have unresolved concerns regarding any of the following impediments

- (a) Consanguinity and affinity as defined in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer;
- (b) Mistaken identity;
- (c) Absence of the capacity for free and intelligent choice;
- (d) Bigamy, evidence of sexual perversion or conviction of a sexually related crime;
- (e) Fraud, coercion, abuse or duress.
- (f) Failure to conform to the teaching of this Church regarding man, woman, and marriage as set forth in the Holy Scriptures and in these Canons.

2. Any declarations of nullity may only be granted by a Bishop with jurisdiction and shall be based upon Scriptural principles including the foregoing impediments to marriage.

### **Section 6**

The Clergy shall require the parties to sign the following declaration:

*“We, N.N. and N.N., desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. We believe it is established by God for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord; for mutual joy, and for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; to maintain purity, so that husbands and wives, with all the household of God, might serve as holy and undefiled members of the Body of Christ; and for the upbuilding of Christ’s kingdom in family, church, and society, to the praise of his holy Name. We do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God’s help thereto.*

### **Section 7**

In all cases marriages shall be solemnized according to the forms contained in an authorized Book of Common Prayer, or other rite authorized this Church and permitted by the Bishop.

### **Section 8**

The Clergy shall cause to be recorded in the permanent records of the congregation the name, age, and residence of each party. Such record shall be signed by the member of the Clergy, the married parties, and at least two witnesses.

## **Marriage Laws**

Marriage laws in the US are established by the individual states, not the federal government.

Here's a summary of each state's marriage law procedure, including premarital [blood tests](#) and [waiting periods](#) before marriage, and the like. Because state marriage laws in this area have been changing rapidly — many states have recently eliminated blood tests and or physical exams. You should check with your county marriage license bureau office, county clerk's, city clerk's, or town clerk's office before making any wedding or travel plans.

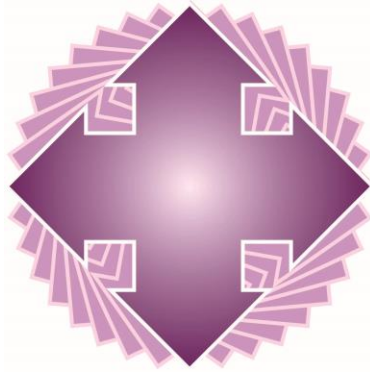
### **State Marriage Law Procedures**

The Marriage License requirements for applicants to marry vary from state to state. Although there are differences between the requirements in the various states, a marriage between two spouses performed in one state must be recognized by every other state under the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the United States Constitution.

### **Pennsylvania State Requirements for a Marriage License**

While there are some uniform regulations for marriage in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, you will need to inquire with the county in which you will be married for particular details. Click on the link below to find some sample information from the Allegheny County homepage.

[From Pennsylvania, Allegheny County Website](#)



**Declaration of Intention**  
According to Title II, Canon 7, Section 6

Place of Marriage \_\_\_\_\_

Rector or Priest in Charge \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*“We, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,  
desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold  
marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.  
We believe it is established by God for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge  
and love of the Lord; for mutual joy, and for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and  
adversity; to maintain purity, so that husbands and wives, with all the household of God, might serve  
as holy and undefiled members of the Body of Christ; and for the upbuilding of Christ’s kingdom in  
family, church, and society, to the praise of his holy Name. We do engage ourselves, so far as in us  
lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God’s help thereto.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

## Standards for Marriage Preparation of Divorced Persons

Couples are to meet a minimum of five times usually with the priest officiating at the wedding for premarital counseling. These sessions are in addition to the meeting to discuss a wedding date, wedding plans, etc. The following topics are covered.

1. The nature of the commitment they are making by deciding to undertake a Christian marriage.
2. The nature of each of their commitments to Christ and his Church.
3. Sexuality.
4. Preparation for and the nurturing of Christian children.
5. Relationships with in-laws.
6. The legal and financial implications of marriage in regards to:
  - a. Financial planning
  - b. Wills
  - c. Health insurance
  - d. Life insurance
  - e. Credit
7. Communication skills in marriage.
8. Decision-making in marriage.
9. Conflict resolution in marriage, including the spiritual resources of repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation.

**One session should be devoted to filling out and discussing the Application for Remarriage, which is to be sent to the Bishop within sixty days before the wedding date.**

The Diocese encourages couples to attend a marriage preparation weekend, such as Engaged Encounter, in addition to the three required sessions with the minister. Engaged Encounter is a ministry of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh but is open to all Christian couples. For information, visit their website: <https://diopitt.org/marriage-preparation>

# Application for Remarriage in the Church

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PRIEST**

Page 1 of 2

*To be submitted to the Bishop at least sixty days prior to the date of the proposed marriage.*

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This information is to be sent to the Bishop, who must approve all remarriage of divorced persons in this diocese.

Names of Couple to be married \_\_\_\_\_

Priest's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Priest's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of proposed wedding \_\_\_\_\_

List the date you have met with the Couple and the topics covered.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

Are you satisfied that this marriage is soundly intended? Please give a detailed explanation.



**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PRIEST**

Page 2 of 2

If neither party is a member of your parish, or if you are not holding a pastoral cure, please explain your reasons for officiating at this wedding.

Has any other minister of the Anglican Church or any other church declined to solemnize this proposed wedding?

If so, you must consult with this minister. In light of this consultation, why have you decided to officiate at this wedding?

The name, address, and phone number of minister who refused to officiate:

Have all requirements of Canon 7 been met?

If you are not an active canonical resident holding a pastoral cure in this diocese, then this form must be accompanied by the endorsement of such a minister.

With this application, the following must be enclosed:

1. An official copy of the divorce decree(s)
2. The signed Declaration of Intention

# Application for Remarriage in the Church

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE GROOM**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name and location of parish in which you were baptized \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Name and location of parish in which you were confirmed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of confirmation \_\_\_\_\_

Name and location of parish you are now attending \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been attending this parish? \_\_\_\_\_

Present address \_\_\_\_\_

Present marital status \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of any former marriage(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Place(s) of any former marriage(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of officiating clergy or other official(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of any divorce(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_

Father's address \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's address (if different from father's) \_\_\_\_\_

How are the resources of the Christian faith, such as the Scriptures, the Sacraments, fellowship and prayer, a part of your life?

Why do you want to be married in the Anglican Church?

What do you think makes a marriage a Christian marriage?

What will be your involvement in the Church after your wedding?

# Application for Remarriage in the Church

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE BRIDE**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name and location of parish in which you were baptized \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Name and location of parish in which you were confirmed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of confirmation \_\_\_\_\_

Name and location of parish you are now attending \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been attending this parish? \_\_\_\_\_

Present address \_\_\_\_\_

Present marital status \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of any former marriage(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Place(s) of any former marriage(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of officiating clergy or other official(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of any divorce(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_

Father's address \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's address (if different from father's) \_\_\_\_\_

How are the resources of the Christian faith, such as the Scriptures, the Sacraments, fellowship and prayer, a part of your life?

Why do you want to be married in the Anglican Church?

What do you think makes a marriage a Christian marriage?

What will be your involvement in the Church after your wedding?

# Application for Remarriage in the Church

**TO BE COMPLETED BY DIVORCED PERSON(S)**

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The following questions should be answered separately by each divorced person **in addition** to the Groom and Bride forms. If a person has been divorced more than once, he or she should answer all the following questions for each marriage that has ended. Therefore, if more than one form is needed, please make additional copies or attach an additional sheet covering the questions found herein.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

What circumstances led to the dissolution of the former marriage?

Do the Biblical grounds as cited in Title II, Canon 7 apply?

Are there any children by the former marriage (s)?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

What continuing care and ongoing support have you been maintaining for your former spouse and any children?

How are you providing for the spiritual nurturing of any children?

What relationship to any children from the former marriage do you intend to maintain after you remarry?