



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Christian marriage is an extraordinary gift of God, in which a couple are called to live in the saving grace of Christ, enriched, guided and sustained by the Holy Spirit, in communion with the community of the Church. The occasion when couples approach the Church with the intention of being married, or seeking blessing of their civil marriage, gives opportunity for inviting them deeper into the life of Christ, and for offering clear teaching and support for their marriage. In that spirit, the Declaration of Intent, as required by Canon, serves to reaffirm the solemn and joyous nature of the sacrament of Christian marriage.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Declaration of Intention

We,

(Name)

and

(Name)

Desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church understand the teaching of the church that God's purpose for our marriage is for our mutual joy, for the help and comfort we will give to each other in prosperity and adversity, and, when it is God's will, for the gift and heritage of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of God. We also understand that our marriage is to be unconditional, mutual, exclusive, faithful, and lifelong; and we engage to make the utmost effort to accept these gifts and fulfill these duties, with the help of God and the support of our community. (Canon I.18.4 of the *Canons of The Episcopal Church*)

DATE _____ PARISH NAME & LOCATION _____

NAME OF CELEBRANT _____