

New Beginnings...

A Renewal of Vows or Commitment

A pastoral liturgy produced by
The Liturgical Commission of the
Anglican Church in Aotearoa,
New Zealand and Polynesia

Welcome and greeting

Introduction

Either

N and N. We rejoice with you today as we join in this celebration of recommitment to each other, to hear your vows, to pray with you, and to wish you joy in your future together.

(The service continues on page 3 with a reading)

Or

N. and N. wish to end what has been damaging in their relationship. They acknowledge the fulfilment of some of their dreams and look forward with new hope. It is a time to risk more and thus to gain more.

In silence let us hold *N. and N.* in our thoughts and prayers as they recall the pain they have caused each other.

Silence

Confession and Forgiveness

The couple say individually:

I acknowledge the ways in which I have hurt you, and I am sorry.

Then the couple may say together..

We call upon God's grace to renew our lives so that we discover new ways of being together.

The celebrant says:

Reconciling God,

We thank you for your unspoiled love which you continue to share with us in Christ. May *N. and N.* experience afresh your forgiveness and know the reality of your love for the whole world. Amen.

DISMISSAL

The celebrant says:

N. and N.,
go now in peace and love.
And may the blessing of God,
creator, sustainer and giver of life,
be with us all today, tomorrow and forever.
Amen.

SUGGESTED HYMNS AND SONGS

From "With One Voice"

Lead us heavenly 'spirit' lead us.
Jesus stand among us at the meeting of our lives.
The Love of God.
He came singing love.
Where the road runs out.

PRAYERS

The celebrant says:

God of new beginnings,
You have created love of every kind.
Thank you for the gifts that *N. and N.* find in each other.

Be with them day by day,
enable them to listen to each other, and help them to face the
challenges ahead. Amen.

*Additional prayers are on p80Off. A NZ Prayer Book He Karakia
Mihinare o Aotearoa*

SHARED BLESSING AND RESPONSE

Companion God,
Give your blessing to *N. and N.*
that in their continuing relationship
they may be a source of blessing to each other and all they meet.
Grant that we their friends, and all who become their friends,
will sense and understand their needs
and help as opportunity demands,
Amen.

AFFIRMATION

The couple may wish to share a token of their vows and / or receive
tokens from those gathered (for example: a lighted candle or flowers)

HYMN ORSONG

(Following the first introduction)

A Reading

Any of the following are appropriate:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Psalm 139: 1-3 | Psalm 51: 10-12 |
| Isaiah 40: 28-31 | Ephesians 4: 17-24 |
| Romans 12: 1-3 | 2 Corinthians 4: 1-6 |
| 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 | "Aotearoa Psalms" by Joy Cowley |
| "Cries of the Spirit" by Marilyn Sewell | |

Hymn or song

Reflection

*Poems or readings of the couple's choice, or some of the memories that
have shaped the couple's journey to this day.*

*The couple and gathered community may speak freely or share aloud
some of the following:*

- MOMENTS OF SPECIAL JOY
 - MOMENTS OF TRANSITION
 - PERSONAL PREFERENCES
 - GROWING OLD TOGETHER

Thanksgiving

The celebrant says:

God, the author of love,
we thank you for the dawning of this day
and for your love renewed each morning.

Today N. and N. have shared memories of their journey together;
times of happiness, struggles and joys.
Thank you for your grace to continue the journey.

Amen.

Declaration - A time of Recommitment

Two alternatives are suggested here: a formal declaration based on the marriage vows in *A New Zealand Prayer Book - He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa* or one of the following, offering a less formal opportunity for the couple to make personal expressions of commitment.

EITHER

The celebrant turns to the couple and says:

N. and N., as you enter this new stage of your journey together
do you love and trust each other?

We do.

Will you continue to share with each other the pain and joy of life,
forgiving and being forgiven,
accepting the differences and changes a mature and loving partnership
involves?

We will with God's help.

The celebrant turns to those present and invites them to respond.

In your relationship with N. and N.

Do you pledge your love and support now and in the years ahead?

Yes we do, and may their life together be rich and full.

OR

The celebrant says to the couple:

N. and N., what do you intend in this new commitment?

The couple may make their own response, or say the following:

*With the help of God,
we intend to be open, loyal, and honest with each other,
to work at deepening our trust and our faithfulness to each other
based on all we have learned so far,
and to share with others the strength and encouragement we draw
from our love and our intimacy.*

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

The couple face each other, hold hands and say to each other..

N., I love you and re-commit myself to you.

Together

We celebrate our promises today.

Together we enter a new stage of our journey.

May our recommitment be a sign of hope for ourselves and for other