

Covenant of Marriage

This document certifies a covenant of Marriage between Clifton Alan Muncy And Sara Elizabeth Parkes. The above individuals were joined in the Holy Bonds of marriage on the sixteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord and Savior two thousand nine, in Walnut Cove, North Carolina, United States of America.

Preamble

Clifton Alan Muncy and Sara Elizabeth Parkes, believing that marriage is a covenant relationship created by Almighty God between a man and a woman, knowingly and voluntarily vow to unite as husband and wife before God and these witnesses according to the commandments of God given in His Word.

We believe that Almighty God, who sovereignly manifests His goodness and wisdom in all His works and ordinances, from the beginning created marriage when He formed Eve as a helper and companion for Adam. We believe the state of marriage is pleasing to the Lord and that He through His Word provides the divine laws and ordinances for the governance of marriage. We believe each of us is given individual and mutual duties in this covenant of marriage and we vow to earnestly fulfill the responsibilities given to us by God. We acknowledge that alone in our sinful nature we are incapable of fulfilling these duties as declared in the Word of God but that through the work of grace by the Holy Spirit in our hearts we possess the means to overcome our natural state and thus be obedient to God's commands.

Our Solemn Vows

We vow to love, comfort, honor, and keep each other in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, for better or for worse; and forsaking all others, to keep each other, so long as we both shall live. Moreover, we freely and joyfully vow the following individual pledges to each other and to Almighty God:

I, Clifton Alan Muncy, born on the first day of May in the year of our Lord and Savior one thousand nine hundred and eighty-one, living in Forsyth County, North Carolina, being a believer in Jesus Christ who is biblically eligible to marry, do voluntarily, humbly and solemnly vow to take this woman, Sara Elizabeth Parkes, to be my lawful wife, promising never to forsake her; to love her faithfully, and to maintain her, as a faithful and pious husband is bound to do in following the example of the great Bridegroom Jesus Christ towards His bride the church; to live holily with her; keeping faithful and true to her in all things according to the holy gospel of God.

In accord with biblical standards for what a husband should be, I promise to lead you, Sara, as my glory (1 Corinthians 11:3,7), and to provide for your sustenance (1 Timothy 5:8), working diligently, and committing my works to the Lord that He might establish my thoughts regarding our union and family (Proverbs 16:3). I promise to earnestly maintain a sacrificial love for you (Ephesians 5:25,28; Colossians 3:19) and to dwell with you with understanding (1 Peter 3:7), so that I might adore and cherish you rather than arbitrarily rule over you in some harsh or dictatorial manner.

I, Sara Elizabeth Parkes, born on the twelfth day of May in the year of our Lord and Savior one thousand nine hundred eighty-one, living in Forsyth County, North Carolina, being a believer in Jesus Christ who is biblically eligible to marry, do voluntarily, humbly and solemnly vow to take this man, Clifton Alan Muncy, to be my lawful husband, promising to love him and to be joyfully obedient to him in following the example demonstrated by the church in her love and obedience to Christ, to serve and assist him, never to forsake him; to live holily with him; keeping faithful and true to him in all things, as a loyal and pious wife is bound to do for her husband according to the holy gospel of God.

In accordance with biblical standards for what your wife should be Clifff, I promise to be as well organized, trustworthy, and hard-working as the virtuous women described in Proverbs 31:10-31 and Ruth 3:10-11, never forsaking my faithfulnes to God, to you, or to my household (Proverbs 31:11-12). I promise to be submissive to you—even to the point of adopting your will and desires as my own (Ephesians 5:22, Colossians 3:18, 1 Peter 3:1), to be domestic (Titus 2:5) and care for you and the children entrusted to me, to seek the incorruptible beauty of a quiet and gentle spirit (1 Peter 3:4), and to always love and defend you (Titus 2:4) as your supportive companion.

In submission to my husband, therefore, I hereby affirm my desire and intention to take his surname. Hence, from this day forth, let it be known that I, Sara Elizabeth Parkes, voluntarily choose to call myself, and to change my legal name, that I will forever be known as Mrs. Sara Parkes Muncy or, if I prefer to use my given middle name informally, as Mrs. Sara Elizabeth Muncy. I would that others likewise recognize my change of name. My decision is in conformity with our American cultural tradition based on the biblical principle given in Numbers 36:3 and elsewhere in the Scriptures, which indicates that a woman from one Israelite tribe who married a man from another tribe would become, along with her children, part of her husband's tribe.

Prayer and Benediction

We ask that Almighty God, who has called us into His kingdom and has united us in the bonds of marriage, may grant us the presence of the Holy Spirit, so that we, in true love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and in firm faith of the promises of God the Father, may live holy lives according to His divine will. We ask for God's blessing as co-heirs of the covenant He established first with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and then with our Lord Jesus Christ and His Apostles for the universal church, that we may bring up children in the fear of the Lord, to the honor of His name, and to the edification of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We beseech the Lord God to replenish us with His grace and grant that we may long live together in all godliness and holiness.

Agreement Regarding Children, Property, and Common Law Matters

We affirm that all of our real and personal property shall be owned jointly, unless specifically registered and titled in our names individually or in trust. We shall affirm this contract even if we choose to live in a community property state (viz. Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington, or Wisconsin), that would deem all property acquired by either of us, as well as together, to be jointly owned and equally shared. The laws of the state of North Carolina shall govern the property provisions in this action, unless written consent by both of us is given to place them under another jurisdiction.

On the basis of our solemn marriage vows, we affirm that any children that may issue as a result of our physical union—or by means of adoption by both of us together—shall be our lawful and rightful heirs in the sight of God and, therefore, ought to be in the sight of men. They ought to all participate equally in such rights. Any attempt to deny them their right to inherit property, take their father's name, or make decisions for their parents as "next of kin" shall run contrary to our express intent and wishes.

We declare that upon the death of either one of us, the property owned by the deceased that does not have a beneficiary designated shall immediately become the property of the surviving spouse, if living, otherwise to the aforementioned children, equally and per stirpes. If both of us die simultaneously, our property that does not have a beneficiary designated for it shall immediately become the property of all of the aforementioned children, equally and per stirpes. If those children and us should die simultaneously, our property that does not have a beneficiary designated for it shall immediately become the property of all of our nephews and nieces, equally and per stirpes. Otherwise, if we have no surviving children, grandchildren, nephews, or nieces, our property shall pass to the dominion, possession and control of our current or most recent Evangelical Christian church where we were both members.

We further affirm the common law rights that we as rightfully and lawfully married have: to not have to testify against one's spouse, for the wife to be able take the surname of her husband (which she has declared to be her desire and intention), and to maintain an insurable interest in each other as beneficiaries or co-participants (or dependents) for insurance coverage purposes. Accordingly, we would entreat those courts, government agencies, and insurers to accept our solemn promises contained herein as necessary and sufficient causes for the acknowledgement of these common law rights and benefits.

Closing In consideration of the mutual bonds of service and affection that will be rendered to one another from this point forward, it is our express desire that each of the aforementioned provisions be enforceable at law and effectual in practice. Accordingly, we hereby attest to these solemn vows and covenant obligations, with all the associated rights and duties corresponding to them, looking to the manifest grace of God to lead and care for us, as His most holy and wise purpose deems best for His glory. Signed and subscribed this sixteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord and Savior two thousand nine.

By Husband and Wife:

Before these Witnesses: