



New Register House
3 West Register Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

(0131) 314 4434

February 19, 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

As part of its ongoing programme of work on the solemnisation of marriage and registration of civil partnership, National Records of Scotland (NRS) is undertaking an audit. This audit relates to celebrants who have been authorised by the Registrar General to solemnise marriages or register civil partnerships on the nomination of a belief body. The purpose of the audit is to ensure that nominating bodies continue to conform to the statutory definition of a belief body. I am therefore writing to you to seek information that will enable the Registrar General to determine this issue.

The statutory definition of a belief body is "an organised group of people the principal object (or one of the principal objects) of which is to uphold or promote philosophical beliefs and which meets regularly for that purpose". When The Love Society was originally required to satisfy the Registrar General that it was a belief body, the information requested in relation to that requirement included the following:

- A copy of TLS's constitution or statement of faith, containing the aims and beliefs of the group together with details on the appointment of office bearers
- The number of members, both locally and within the UK (if applicable)
- Details of how often TLS met to uphold and promote philosophical beliefs, such as calendars of events, minutes of meetings and so on, as well as details of how members are given notice of these meetings
- Information about the form of marriage ceremony to be used, where appropriate.

For the purpose of this audit, I would therefore ask you to respond within 28 days of the date of this letter, enclosing updated information and materials in regard to:

- Details of current office bearers (including any recent or proposed changes to membership of those offices)
- Current membership numbers, as at the end of 2018
- Details of meetings held since the start of 2018 to uphold and promote the body's philosophical beliefs. In relation to each meeting, information provided should include date, venue and the usual means by which members were given notice of the meeting
- A copy of your current form of marriage ceremony.

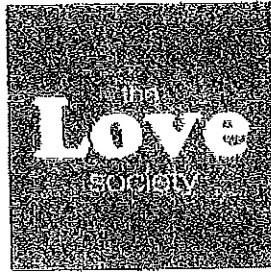


National
Records of
Scotland

I would be happy to talk through any aspect of this request, and can be contacted on the details above.

Yours

ROD BURNS
Deputy Registrar General



The Love Society [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
The Love Society
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Rod Burns
Deputy Registrar General
New Register House
3 West Register Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

11th March 2019

Dear Mr Burns

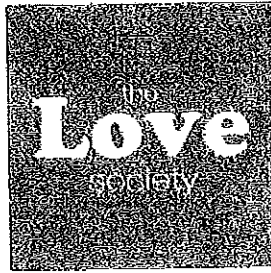
I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 19th February 2019. Please find in this letter and see attached for the information you requested. I was not aware that civil partnerships could be performed by a belief body as you state in your letter. We do not offer this and never have due to this. Please could you clarify that matter, thank you.

Details of current office bearers are as follows:

Chair: Marion McGunnigle

Secretary: Gordon Widdop

Treasurer: Current Vacancy



The Love Society [REDACTED]

Members: 182

Meetings: We have not kept records of the exact dates however meetings are normally at the end of each month. These meetings are either online with some face to face meetings and notification is via email or text message.

We are now keeping a detailed record of these and the programme for 2019 is attached.

Each marriage ceremony is written taking into account our beliefs. In addition to the declaration which each ceremony contains, we mention Love.

Following the declarations made before me and in the presence of these witnesses, it is now my pleasant duty to pronounce you husband and wife.

(Same sex ceremonies of course use the appropriate words)

Please find a sample copy of a marriage ceremony attached.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Chair

The Love Society



The Love Society Meetings 2019 - Dates and Topics

Month	Location	Date	Topics
January	Online	Thursday 31 st January 7pm	1. In the News: Social Media and the damage to personal relationships and privacy. 2. Alcohol and the ceremony, caution around parties drinking. AOB
February	Online	Thursday 28 th February 7pm	1. In the News: With the angels? How can non-religious thinkers help those who've lost someone through devastating circumstances. 2. The blasphemy law campaign 3. Podcast Plans. AOB
March	Online	Thursday 28 th March 7pm	1. In the News: How will Brexit affect the international humanist network and people coming to Scotland to be married? 2. Philosophy: "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?" Gettier's essay and how it is pertinent to current affairs. AOB
April	Online	Thursday 25 th April 7pm	1. Artificial Intelligence: Can AI have a belief system? Do robots make a human? AOB
May	Online	Thursday 30 th May 7pm	1. Love in Action: How action is more effective than nonification. Achievements to date. AOB
June	Summer Lunch Venue tbc	Sunday 30 th June 2pm	Suggestions welcome. Community: Ideas
July	Online	Thursday 25 th July 7pm	1. Death or maybe the Afterlife: Is the traditional atheist view of death a belief or is it science? AOB
August	Online	Thursday 29 th August 7pm	1. Facebook or Psychbook? Is big social media influencing beliefs by mining minds? AOB
September	Online	Thursday 26 th September 7pm	1. Community: Proposals for community volunteering/assistance AOB
October	Online	Thursday 24 th October 7pm	1. Consumer Festivals or Religious Festivals? Should secularists/humanists be celebrating the big three? AOB
November	Online	Thursday 28 th November 7pm	1. Love in Action: Helping the vulnerable
December	Festive Lunch Venue tbc	Sunday 8 th December 2pm	Suggestions Welcome



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February 19, 2019

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- A copy of TSH's constitution or statement of faith, containing the aims and beliefs of the group together with details on the appointment of office bearers
- The number of members, both locally and within the UK (if applicable)
- Details of how often TSH met to uphold and promote philosophical beliefs, such as calendars of events, minutes of meetings and so on, as well as details of how members are given notice of these meetings
- Information about the form of marriage ceremony to be used, where appropriate.

For the purpose of this audit, I would therefore ask you to respond within 28 days of the date of this letter, enclosing updated information and materials in regard to:

- Details of current office bearers (including any recent or proposed changes to membership of those offices)
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- A copy of your current form of marriage ceremony.



National
Records of
Scotland

I would be happy to talk through any aspect of this request, and can be contacted on the details above.

Yours

ROD BURNS
Deputy Registrar General

REGISTERED IN SCOTLAND AS A CHARITY - NUMBER SCO42124

SCOTTISH HUMANISTS

PO BOX 26306, AYR KA7 9AB, SCOTLAND

WWW.SCOTTISHHUMANISTS.ORG.UK

14th March 2019

Dear Mr. Burns,

Attached is the information you require. Clearly it needs some perspective to help get it into context.

BACKGROUND

To begin with, The Scottish Humanists was set up in response to the HSS which was turning into a business. Having been a life member of the HSS since the mid-nineties, during which I spent some time on the Executive Committee helping to shape the rules, it became clear that long standing Humanist principles were being sacrificed to greed and selfishness. For example, it was the practice that members would receive a humanist funeral ceremony without payment, although invariably some payment was paid to the celebrant at the family's discretion. However, understandably, funeral directors preferred that we quote a price that could be passed on to customers looking to use our services who were not members. The price around that time was about 35 pounds to cover expenses. The Scottish Humanists was set up to get back to the original humanism for which it was established. When a new crop of celebrants were recruited from outside the first thing they did was rescind the rule not to charge members for funeral services. It was from that point I witnessed greed and selfishness I could no longer condone as a humanist and eventually declared I would not be charging the prices being demanded. The result was, astonishingly, a few hate mails from fellow celebrants and I was subsequently stripped of my life membership of the HSS. This should explain the leaflet 'Our Scottish Humanists Humanism', a copy is enclosed, and which is read out at all marriage ceremonies and is a precis of our particular brand of humanist philosophy. It is important to note that our humanism does not owe people a living neither should lack of money prevent people becoming members of our organization which is why we don't charge for membership - humanism belongs to everyone.

CONSTITUTION

Copy attached. The constitution reflects our humanist philosophy to the extent that it is not dogmatic since we believe that humanism is an individual choice. We do not, for example, recruit children under the age of 16 years old. There is no proselytizing; we tend to attract adults by example. It has to be borne in mind that, as a humanist body, we do not organize ourselves around religious practices. It is not, as is sometimes assumed, religion without gods.

Attached to the constitution is a copy of the International Humanist and Ethical Union declaration which forms the basis of our general beliefs. However we, I hope, interpret the declaration at the local community and individual level. In recent times we have had poor attendances at meetings because of a lack of publicizing through newspapers and e-mail lists. This has been because of the substantial increase in advertising costs and various other factors. We now produce notices of meetings through advertising in supermarkets, shops, Facebook, hospitals and other outlets. However, the 2018 AGM did not take place because of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This period lasted from November 2017 until autumn of 2018 when [REDACTED] was considered to be fully recovered [REDACTED]. During this period no one was prepared to stand in as Convenor although help was available. It was the other trustee, Mary Hill, who organized matters when required. This was because at a previous meeting it was agreed that the constitution should be amended so that, in an emergency, the trustees could take overall responsibility for running things which fits in with our charity status regulations.

MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

A copy of one of our marriage ceremonies is attached. You will note that I have highlighted in yellow, the précis of our humanist philosophy. This is, we think, a major means of publicizing our humanist philosophy since it is repeated at every wedding ceremony we conduct. Also shown, in orange highlight, the form of oath included in the ceremony which was agreed with your office some years ago. I have also included comments by the participants in this particular marriage as an indication of the esteem in which our marriage ceremonies are held.

We have three main marriage ceremonies consisting of a 'Candle Lighting' ceremony, which is common, a 'Hand fasting' Ceremony which is quite popular and a 'Sands of Time' ceremony where different colours of sand are in two containers to represent each partner and, after the declaration of the joining of the partners is made, the sand is poured into a third container to indicate the subsuming of each partner's personality into their marriage.

Also attached is a copy of the code of practice which indicates the high standards we expect of our marriage officers and which also indicates our humanist philosophy in respect of ceremonies and general conduct.

MEMBERSHIP

Our fiscal year goes from the first day in March until the last day of February so the last current membership is 1110 but trying to sort out local and the rest is proving difficult, as you can imagine. We have settled on our local area as being a 30 mile radius of Ayr. Which is why we also settled on 'first 60 miles is free' in our costing for ceremonies officer's expenses. So our best guess is that our local membership is in the region of 460.

We have members in Tasmania, Australia, Canada, USA and Mexico. If the man from Tasmania turns up at one of our meetings someday I will be over the moon but we won't be paying his expenses.

MEETINGS

Are held as per the constitution. Once again, it is up to the trustees to call additional meeting if they think it is needed. We have used various venues however, attendance is poor and we are now considering using The Market Inn in Ayr as a semi-permanent venue. We are also considering meeting in the surrounding area to include Irvine, Kilmarnock, Cumnock, etc. Minutes of meetings are attached.

OFFICE BEARERS

At present our office bearers are;

Convenor – Hugh Hill

Secretary – Mary Hill

Treasurer – vacant (Mary Hill acting treasurer)

Committee members – Ann McCrindle, Peter Clark, Alex McCrindle.

Grief support – Hugh Hill, Alex McCrindle

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In addition to the services mentioned in this letter, The Scottish Humanists also provide grief support where possible. Myself and Alex McCrindle, who has been CRUSE trained, help out when required. However, although I hold a BSc (Hons) Psychology degree, if I am called upon to deal with a client who might have problems with which I have difficulty in coping, then I will refer them to a full time grief counsellor in one of the hospitals. To help people with grief to take the next step in their life, we purchased a block membership of the local jazz club so that they could get back into going out and socializing. After two years we have abandoned it. We also give a substantial amount to our local food bank both through pure own funds and privately. We encourage our members to contribute to the food banks either through us or the local supermarkets. We also have a large stock of books including many children's books which were destined to be sent to The Sri Lanka Rationalist Association for their schools. However, having spent two months there with my wife working with Save the Children, we discovered that the cost of delivery was prohibitive so the original idea was abandoned. We find that supplying children's books to our local food bank is an excellent way of distributing them to people who couldn't otherwise afford books. We are looking at the possibility of providing science books to our local primary schools. We encourage our membership to help out in local hospitals by becoming a hospital volunteer.

[REDACTED]


[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Our ceremony officers are encouraged to help in the community in some way. For example one works with

Oxfam, another helps out as a carer, and another has left his job to become a full time carer. They just get on with it without any fuss or bother .

Yours Aye,



 The Scottish Humanists
Convenor, BSc (Hons) Psych

Minutes of Meeting of The Scottish Humanists
Sunday 14th January 2018,
61 Dalblair Road, Ayr at 2pm

Present:- Hugh Hill, May Hill, Debbie Richmond, Catherine Graham, Marian Gilchrist,
Jackie Atkinson & Jacqueline Cusack

Apologies:- Peter Clark, Ann McCrindle, Alex McCrindle & Maria Cairnie

Hugh Hill opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. He gave an informative view on "What Humanism is like in today's world". We then had a short discussion on our topic.

1. As lovely as it was today it was proposed that for future meetings we could look for premises in different areas of Ayrshire to let us be more accessible to all who may wish to come. Also preferably premises that are on the ground level.
2. We had previously spoken to Ceremony Officers about the cost of our ceremonies and have decided to keep the prices as they are. Wedding £175, Naming £150 and Funeral £100. This was agreed by all present at the meeting.
3. It was agreed as before that from £175 we charge for weddings £25 goes into the Scottish Humanist funds, £10 to the ceremonies co-ordinator and £140 to the Marriage Officer conducting the ceremony. Income from naming or funeral goes directly to the Ceremony Officer conducting the said ceremony.
4. We will still support our local foodbank with donations made throughout the year. As [redacted] works part-time in local supermarket, when there are 20% staff days then [redacted] with the help of others will buy groceries and drop them off at the local doctor's surgery for general collection by the foodbank charity.
5. Nominations were asked for positions of Convenor, Vice-convenor, Secretary and Treasurer.
6. No-one wanted to apply so until we find persons willing to take on the posts Hugh will act as Convenor and May will stay on as Secretary & acting Treasurer. But during the course of the year if anyone wishes to apply they will be more than welcome to do so.
7. The next meeting will be held around May 2018 possible venue will be the Gailles Hotel, Irvine. We will advise nearer the time with date and time.
8. Hugh thanked everyone for coming closed the meeting and we settled down to tea and coffee and chat.

May Hill
Secretary

Minutes of Meeting of The Scottish Humanists

Tuesday 29th May 2018 at 6.30pm

Coffee Lounge, Gailes Hotel, Irvine

Present: - Hugh Hill, May Hill, Ann McCrindle, Peter Clark & Ged Quirk

Apologies: - Marie Cairnie

1. Peter Clark has agreed and will take Ged Quirk under his guidance and train him to conduct all types of our ceremonies.
2. As we now are able to conduct same-sex marriages discussions were held into new design of our wedding contract forms. Instead of "Bride & Groom" we have changed the form to use the terms "1st party & 2nd party".
3. Due to lack of volunteers we are still looking for Vice-Convenor and Treasurer positions to spread the workload a bit more evenly.
4. We have lost our display position in the "Arran Mall" in Ayr High Street due to a takeover of the said premises. Before we were given a window to display our photographs and notices for free but after their takeover they were asking far too much to use window.
5. Due to [REDACTED] has decided to go as emergency cover at the present time until further notice.
6. All wedding or naming ceremony requests must go through secretary so that it can be put into diary.
7. Next meeting will be held 7th July. May has a wedding ceremony in Ayr Town Hall on that day. Ged will attend to observe then we will go for coffee and chat. All Marriage Officers are welcome to attend.

Hugh thanked all for attending and the meeting closed.

May Hill
Secretary



SCOTTISH HUMANISTS

If you require a personalised Humanist ceremony please ring
07935272723. Or e-mail us at
ceremonies@ScottishHumanists.org.uk

HUMANIST CEREMONIES AT HUMANIST PRICES

Legal marriage ceremonies cost £175 expenses which includes, free script, free rehearsal, free meetings, 60 miles free travel, thereafter 45p per mile. No premium charges for weekends, evenings or public holidays. Our marriage officers are trained to Diploma in Secular Ceremony standard (DipSC).

Naming, restatement of vows, partnership ceremonies, non-legal

THE SCOTTISH HUMANISTS

PO BOX 26306, AYR, KA7 9AB, SCOTLAND

OUR SCOTTISH HUMANISTS HUMANISM

If you are ever asked, "What is Humanism?"

Humanism is an ethical life stance which affirms that human beings have the right and responsibility to give meaning and shape to their lives. It rejects superstition - including religious superstition - in all its forms. It is a belief in the value of education and free enquiry. It contends that a rational and responsible education system which is soundly based on scientific endeavour and investigation is the best system currently available.

Scottish Humanists believe that this is the only life we have and that we should make the best of it for ourselves and others. A humanist believes in a fair and just society where individuals can share in the endeavours, benefits and shared values of organisations set up for the common good, e.g. the NHS.

The greatest Humanist value is the pursuit of happiness for every member of society. It rejects **greed and selfishness**. It encourages co-operation and the intrinsic societal nature of the human species. We believe that people are instinctively capable of working together for the common good and that we don't need religious superstition to tell us what is right from wrong.

Common decency, respect for others and a highly ethical approach to the problems of day to day living are paramount.

The chances are that you are already a Humanist, you just haven't realised it yet.

Regards

Hugh Hill, BSc(Hons)Psych;DipSC.
Convenor, Marriage officer, Scottish Humanists

www.ScottishHumanists.org.uk

The Scottish Humanists is a charity registered in Scotland - SCO42124 www.ScottishHumanists.org.uk

The greatest
poverty in
today's world is
poverty of the
mind;
and the greatest
poverty of the
mind is
superstition.



www.ScottishHumanists.org.uk

The Glasgow Association of Spiritualists
Founded 1866 Affiliated to the Spiritualists' National Union

Telephone [REDACTED] Email [REDACTED]
Scottish Charity No. SC005881

31st January 2018

National Records of Scotland
New Register House
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

Dear Sir,

We hereby advise you that we would like to 'opt-in' for Celebrants to carry out same sex marriages in our premises.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Secretary.



Marriage & Civil Partnership Section
New Register House
Edinburgh EH1 3YT
Tel: 0131 314 4475
e-mail: marriage@nrscotland.gov.uk

Mr [REDACTED]
The Glasgow Association of Spiritualists'

Your reference

Our reference R103/1/101 – Spiritualist'
National Union

Date 12 February 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent letter.

I can confirm that as your organisation is part of the Spiritualists' National Union you are already opted in to perform Same Sex marriages.

Therefore same sex marriages can be performed on your premises.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Stewart



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Scotland

New Register House
3 West Register Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

(0131) 314 4434

February 19, 2019

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The statutory definition of a belief body is "an organised group of people the principal object (or one of the principal objects) of which is to uphold or promote philosophical beliefs and which meets regularly for that purpose". When Spiritualists' National Union was originally required to satisfy the Registrar General that it was a belief body, the information requested in relation to that requirement included the following:

- A copy of SNU's constitution or statement of faith, containing the aims and beliefs of the group together with details on the appointment of office bearers
- The number of members, both locally and within the UK (if applicable)
- Details of how often SNU met to uphold and promote philosophical beliefs, such as calendars of events, minutes of meetings and so on, as well as details of how members are given notice of these meetings
- Information about the form of marriage ceremony to be used, where appropriate.

For the purpose of this audit, I would therefore ask you to respond within 28 days of the date of this letter, enclosing updated information and materials in regard to:

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National
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Scotland

I would be happy to talk through any aspect of this request, and can be contacted on the details above.

Yours

ROD BURNS
Deputy Registrar General



Mr R Burns
Deputy Registrar General
National Records of Scotland
New Register House
3 West Register Street
EDINBURGH
EH1 3YT

19th March 2019

CSC/NATRECSCOTLAND/RB

Dear Mr Burns

National Records of Scotland - Spiritualists' National Union

Thank you for your letter of 19th February last.

I enclose a sheef giving information on the items listed in your letter, together with a copy of our marriage services, both opposite-sex and same-sex: these services are for England and Wales but are usually used as a basis for services in Scotland.

Please let me know if there is anything I have omitted to supply you with.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]
[Redacted Name]
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Enc.

SPIRITUALISTS' NATIONAL UNION

Information for National Records of Scotland

Details of Current Office-Bearers

President: MINISTER D.R. BRUTON, DMS, MBA, [REDACTED] Tel: 01827 289579. Email: president@snu.org.uk

Vice-President: MINISTER A. RAWNSLEY, [REDACTED] Tel: 01484 850466. Email: vpa.nec@snu.org.uk

Vice-President: MINISTER N.J. ENGLISH, [REDACTED] Tel: 01709 211242. Email: j-english@sky.com

Financial Director: MISS J. ALMOND, OSNU, [REDACTED] Tel: 0113 286 8931 Email: fd@snu.org.uk

Education and Exponents Director: MINISTER S.D. UPTON, [REDACTED] Tel: 01909 489828. Email: ee.dir@snu.org.uk

Communications Director: A. HIRST, [REDACTED] Tel: 07587 154233. Email: com.dir@snu.org.uk

Council Member to NEC: MINISTER L. BRADLEY, [REDACTED] Tel: 0191 424 0089. Email: lynbradley@sky.com

Ordinary Member 1: S. MINISTER GIBSON-FOY, [REDACTED] Tel: 07837 784663. Email: om1.nec@snu.org.uk

Ordinary Member 2: MRS P. SEYMOUR, OSNU, [REDACTED] Tel: 0208 405 1898/07941 681781. Email: om2.nec@snu.org.uk

Current Membership Numbers

Figures are not yet available for 2018 but at the end of 2017 the Union had 317 fully affiliated churches (with a total membership of 9,110 persons), 20 other member bodies, 1,948 full Individual Members and 289 provisional Individual Members.

Details of meetings held

9th February 2018	Meeting of the National Executive Committee held at the Barbanell Centre
6th April 2018	Meeting of the National Executive Committee held at the Barbanell Centre
8th June 2018	Meeting of the National Executive Committee held at the Barbanell Centre
21st July 2018	One-Hundred and Sixteenth SNU Annual General Meeting held at the Cedar Court Hotel, Huddersfield
3th August 2018	Meeting of the National Executive Committee held at the Barbanell Centre
5th October 2018	Meeting of the National Executive Committee held at the Barbanell Centre
30th November 2018	Meeting of the National Executive Committee held at Stansted Hall
8th February 2019	Meeting of the National Executive Committee held at the Barbanell Centre

All meetings take place over three days.

The address of the Barbanell Centre is 64b Co-operative Street, Stafford ST16 3DA.
The address of Stansted Hall is Stansted Hall, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex CM24 8UD.

MARRIAGE SERVICE IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Both parties must give at least 15 working days' notice to the Registrar and arrange with him/her and with the Church officials the date and time of the Marriage Service.

The Registrar or the Deputy must be present at the service unless the Church has taken steps to secure the appointment of a person specially authorised to act in the place of the Registrar.

Couples who do not live in the area of a Spiritualist Church may be married in the Church which they normally attend or their nearest Spiritualist Church. Notice of registration must be given both to their local Registrar and to the Registrar serving within the area of the Church where the marriage is to take place.

MARRIAGE SERVICE

The bride enters to chosen music.

The bride, on reaching the rostrum, hands over her bouquet to the Maid of Honour.

The Minister welcomes the guests.

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here on this special day when (*first name of bridegroom*) and (*first name of bride*) have chosen to become husband and wife. I am sure you will join with me to make this time as happy as possible for them. I invite you to stand and join in the first hymn which is...

Hymn

Minister to all:

As we meet here in the presence of God with our family and friends, both seen and unseen, to share this day of joy where (*name*) and (*name*) have chosen to enter into the sacred bonds of marriage, we would impress upon them the mystic significance of the marriage tie and seek the blessing of God upon their union.

Marriage involves the most tender and lasting ties that can unite (*name*) and (*name*) in this life, for they have become so sure of their love that they will commit themselves each to the other in the name of God.

The Minister invites the guests to sit and unite in prayer.

Father God, we come together in Your presence to give thanks for all the blessings we receive. Traditionally, men and women have entered into the sacred bonds of marriage to pledge their allegiance to each other in Your presence. As we meet to witness the commitment of (*name*) and (*name*), we ask for the blessing of Your love and the companionship of our friends from the spirit world.

May strength and inspiration be given to us all now and in the future but in particular to this couple, who are here to pledge their lives together. We ask that the sincerity of the vows taken today be recorded in the higher realms of life. Amen.

As Spiritualists we know that love survives death, and that same love unites us in the world of spirit so that those who love each other may be together in eternity. Therefore this union is

even more special in that we recognise that it is made on earth and may be fulfilled in eternal life together.

As you may know, Spiritualists are not tied to any creed or dogma. We accept the Seven Principles as our guidelines for a way of life. These Principles form the core of our religion. They are the legally accepted and lawfully recognised definition of the religious philosophy of Spiritualism.

The Minister reads the Principles or invites a chosen person (e.g. the best man) to read them.

1. The Fatherhood of God
2. The Brotherhood of Man
3. The Communion of Spirits and the Ministry of Angels
4. The Continuous Existence of the Human Soul
5. Personal Responsibility
6. Compensation and Retribution Hereafter for all the Good and Evil Deeds done on Earth
7. Eternal Progress Open to every Human Soul

The Minister continues:

This outward ceremony can only be the symbol of the inner commitment between two hearts and two minds, which the Church may bless and the state make legal, but, to be happy, there must be a dedication of each to the other, and of both to the highest ideals of life.

Minister to all:

If anyone can show just cause or impediment why these two may not be joined together in marriage, let them now declare it or else hereafter forever hold their peace.

Minister to pause for a short while.

The Minister turns to the bride and bridegroom.

I require and charge you both, remembering your responsibility to God and spirit, that if either of you know of any impediment why you may not be lawfully joined together in marriage, you shall now declare it.

Bridegroom to repeat the Declaratory Vows after the Minister (full names to be used):

I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, (full name of bridegroom), may not be joined in matrimony to (full name of bride).

Bride to repeat after the Minister:

I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, (full name of bride), may not be joined in matrimony to (full name of bridegroom).

Alternative Choice of Declaratory Words 1:

Bridegroom:

I declare that I know of no legal reason why I, *(full name of bridegroom)*, may not be joined in marriage to *(full name of bride)*.

Bride:

I declare that I know of no legal reason why I, *(full name of bride)*, may not be joined in marriage to *(full name of bridegroom)*.

Alternative Choice of Declaratory Words 2:

Minister to ask:

Are you, *(full name of bridegroom)*, free lawfully to marry *(full name of bride)*?

The bridegroom answers:

I am.

Minister to ask:

Are you, *(full name of bride)*, free lawfully to marry *(full name of bridegroom)*?

The bride answers:

I am.

The Minister then asks:

Who acts as sponsor to *(name of bride)*?

Other appropriate words may be used.

[The sponsor could be the father or mother of the bride or any other person she has chosen to undertake this role.]

The sponsor answers:

I do.

The Minister will then thank the sponsor with a few appropriate words such as: On behalf of (name of bride) I thank you for your support. You may now take your seat.

The Minister turns to the bride and bridegroom and asks them to face one another.

Minister to the bridegroom:

In joining with *(name of bride)* in marriage and bearing in mind our Principle of Personal Responsibility will you love her, honour her and support her in all the joys and adversities which you may encounter and be faithful to her throughout your married life?

The bridegroom answers:

I will.

Minister to the bride:

In joining with (*name of bridegroom*) in marriage and bearing in mind our Principle of Personal Responsibility will you love him, honour him and support him in all the joys and adversities which you may encounter and be faithful to him throughout your married life?

The bride answers:

I will.

Minister to the couple:

What pledge(s) do you offer to fulfil these vows?

Reply:

This ring or These rings.

The Minister takes the rings from the bridegroom's sponsor [best man] and places them on to his book or a special cushion.

At this point the Minister would thank the bridegroom's sponsor [best man] with some appropriate words.

Holding the rings firmly, the Minister says:

Gold has always been regarded as a precious metal and your rings, being symbolic of an eternal circle, indicate a token of oneness, continuity and completeness and are the outward signification of the unity of your hearts and minds.

Minister to bride:

Will you now please accept (*name of bridegroom*)'s ring as a token and pledge of his love as he places it upon the third finger of your left hand?

The bride answers:

I will.

Minister to bridegroom:

Will you now please accept (*name of bride*)'s ring as a token and pledge of her love as she places it upon the third finger of your left hand?

The bridegroom answers:

I will.

Option 2:

Minister to bridegroom:

As you place this ring on the third finger of (*name of bride*) will you now declare your love for her. Please repeat after me:

I, (*name of bridegroom*), place this ring on the third finger of your left hand as an eternal and everlasting symbol of my love for you; for as long as you wear it we are as one.

Minister to bride:

As you place this ring on the third finger of (*name of bridegroom*) will you now declare your love for him. Please repeat after me:

I, (*name of bride*), place this ring on the third finger of your left hand as an eternal and everlasting symbol of my love for you; for as long as you wear it we are as one.

The Minister says to both:

With your right hands joined and your hearts open to each other, will you declare your marriage each to the other?

Bridegroom to repeat after the Minister:

I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, (*full name of bridegroom*), do take thee, (*full name of bride*), to be my lawful wedded wife.

Bride to repeat after the Minister:

I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, (*full name of bride*), do take thee, (*full name of bridegroom*), to be my lawful wedded husband.

Alternative Contract Words 1:

Bridegroom:

I, (*full name of bridegroom*), take you, (*full name of bride*), to be my wedded wife.

Bride:

I, (*full name of bride*) take you, (*full name of bridegroom*), to be my wedded husband.

Alternative Contract Words 2:

Bridegroom:

I, (*full name of bridegroom*), take thee, (*full name of bride*), to be my wedded wife.

Bride:

I, (*full name of bride*), take thee, (*full name of bridegroom*), to be my wedded husband.

The Minister, taking their joined hands between his/her own, says:

(*Name*) and (*name*) have today pledged themselves each to the other before God and in the presence of witnesses, both seen and unseen. In accordance with the powers conferred upon me by the Spiritualists' National Union it is my pleasure and duty to pronounce them husband and wife, Mr and Mrs (*surname*). You may now share the first kiss of your married life together.

Hymn (optional)

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 April 2019 10:07
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: Re: Same Sex Marriage

Lynne

Thank you very much for your help
I am due to retire shortly and would not like any future same sex weddings to be void due to a technicality and to think we joined them together unnecessary.
Thanks again

Sent from my iPhone

> On 1 Apr 2019, at 08:38, <marriage@nrscotland.gov.uk> <marriage@nrscotland.gov.uk> wrote

>

> Dear [REDACTED]

>

> Thank you for your e-mail.

>

> As discussed earlier, I understand that in England the building has to be registered in order for weddings to be held there. In Scotland it is the celebrant who is authorised and not the building.

>

> I have checked our records and the Spiritualists' National Union has already opted in to allow its celebrants to conduct same sex weddings.

>

> I hope that my reply is helpful.

>

> Kind regards

>

> Lynne Rodgers

> Marriage Section

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: [REDACTED]

> Sent: 28 March 2019 16:52

> To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox <marriage@nrscotland.gov.uk>

> Subject: Same Sex Marriage

>

> Good afternoon

>

> I am a Trustees for Glasgow Central Association of Spiritualist church
> based at [REDACTED]

>

> Our main organisation is the Spiritualist national union based at
> Redwoods, Stanstead Essex

>

> We were instructed by the main organisation to contact local register office for further details to register the building for same sex marriage but after calling the Edinburgh register office I was to there is no requirement for Scotland. Just to drop a note to say that the church would like to Opt for the same sex marriages to be conducted within the premises which I would like to carry out,

although I am not sure if the premises will already be opted in due to our main organisation the spiritualist national union.

> Thanking you in anticipation

> [REDACTED]
> Treasurer

> Glasgow Central Association of spiritualists

> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]

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> Tha am post-d seo (agus faidhle neo ceanglan còmhla ris) dhan neach neo luchd-ainmichte a-mhàin. Chan eil e ceadaichte a chleachdadh ann an dòigh sam bith, a' toirt a-steach còraichean, foillseachadh neo sgaoileadh, gun chead. Ma 's e is gun d'fhuair sibh seo gun fhiosd', bu choir cur às dhan phost-d agus lethbhreac sam bith air an t-siostam agaibh agus fios a lèigeil chun neach a sgaoil am post-d gun dàil.

> Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

> *****

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