

**Recommitment Ceremony Script for Frank and Diane Lancione  
Presiding Official – Mr. Joe Elliott – June 4, 2022 – Fenney Recreation Center**

[All text in this document that is shown in blue is spoken by the Presiding Official, Mr. Joe Elliot. Text to be spoken by other participants have the speaker identified within brackets preceding the text they will speak].

[Joe Elliot stands up and calls the group to order.]

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to welcome you here today to celebrate this wonderful event with Frank and Diane and me. I have the privilege of being the Presiding Official for this event. I am doing so in my capacity as a friend of Frank and Diane and as a duly authorized and certified minister of the The Universal Life Church. It's amazing what you can do on the Internet! Just kidding! Now in all seriousness, let us begin.

\* \* \* \* \*

Life is journey and so is marriage. We are here today to celebrate the rededication of Frank and Diane Lancione to each other in front of God their friends, and their family .

Frank and Diane have achieved a milestone only a few couples are lucky enough to reach – fifty years of marriage – half a century together.

We all begin our married life full of optimism, hope and dreams of what will be. But just as there are no guarantees in life, there are no guarantees in marriage. You create the marriage you have. You do it a day at time, a month at a time, a year at a time, a decade at a time, a lifetime at a time.

As I am sure all you know, Frank has written “a few” poems to describe the love that he and Diane share. I am going to read excerpts from three of those poems now. They are this couple’s way of describing the journey that brought them to this day fifty years after they first committed themselves to each other.

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The first poem I am going to read to is *No Chance, No Way*. This poem talks about how if we are shaped by our experiences, then after fifty years of experiencing life together, “It’s hard to even say: “Where I start and you end.” Here is the poem”

***No Chance. No Way.***

*Would I be the person  
I am today,  
Without you in my life?  
No chance. No way.*

*Fifty years together  
Is a long, long time.  
We’ve seen, done it all  
Good, bad, silly, sublime.*

*After a lifetime with you  
As lover, partner, best friend.  
It’s even hard to say,  
Where I start and you end.*

*When I think of “home,”  
It’s not a building or place.  
It’s our years of being together  
Memories time cannot erase.*

*When I think of “joy,”  
That’s you too.  
My life’s biggest thrills  
Were all things I did with you.*

*And now as we live out*

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*Our last phase, our senior years.  
I'm not focused on decline,  
Regrets, tears, or fears.*

*I think instead of all that's still ahead,  
All I still want and can do.  
And then I smile, my spirits soar,  
Because I get to do it all with you.*

*If we had never met,  
Would I be the same person I am today?  
No chance.  
No way.*

Another very important part of making it to fifty years together is supporting each other, standing by each other when perhaps no one else in the world will do so. I am now going to read from a poem that describes what it is like to have someone support you in that way for fifty years.

**Oasis**

*Everyone wishes for  
That one friend who is true.  
I don't have to wish.  
I have you.*

*I know hundreds of people.  
Been thousands of places.  
But in all that really matters,  
You're still my Oasis.*

*You're the place I retreat to  
In times good and bad.*

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*In victory and defeat.  
Exultant or sad.*

*For five decades you've been  
The very heart of my life  
My best friend, my lover  
My partner, my wife.*

*Your love and support  
Are more precious than gold  
Especially as our days grow short,  
And we grow old.*

*If there's one life goal  
That I still aspire to,  
It's striving always to be  
Your Oasis too.*

The final thought I want to share about this couple and the road they covered to make it to this momentous day is that it was indeed a journey. The two people who fell in love and were married fifty years ago had hopes and dreams, but it was all the things they did with and for each other that got them to this place, this celebration today. I am now going to read from a poem that talks about that experience.

**Half Century.**

*We began as newlyweds  
Unsure what our life would be.  
We couldn't even imagine,  
Half a century.*

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*We never rested  
On our courtship's glory.  
Instead, we spent our days  
Growing our love story.*

*We raised a daughter,  
Paid our bills.  
Shared life's adventures,  
Laughter, thrills.*

*Life tested us sometimes harshly  
But we still made it through.  
You loved and supported me,  
I loved and supported you.*

*Our days together became  
Weeks, months, then years.  
We survived decades of  
Life's challenges, tears, fears.*

*It's hard to believe that  
Fifty years have passed.  
It's a lifetime ago,  
Yet it's flown by fast.*

*Our love's been a wondrous adventure.  
We don't know what or when our life's end will be.  
But my life's greatest joy will always be having you as  
My partner, best friend, and lover for half a century.*

Now I want to change focus. Some people think that all there is to life is what we see. Frank and Diane believe there is more to life than just what

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humankind has built. They believe in God, and they are asking God to bless their marriage going forward the same way He has blessed the life that brought them this far. Frank and Diane are celebrating the importance of God in their union by asking that two of the most cherished biblical passages on love and marriage be read at this time.

I now want to ask Diane's sister, Debra Christian to read to us from 1st Corinthians Book 13 verses 1-3.

*13 If I speak in the tongues[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

Thank you Debbie. Now, I would like to ask Frank's lifelong friend and the best man at Diane and Frank's wedding in 1972, Mr. Ted Kennedy, to come forward. Ted and his wife Chris have traveled all the way from Frank and Ted's hometown of Silver Creek, New York to celebrate this event with Frank and Diane and all of you. Ted, will you please read to us now:

1st Corinthians Book 13 verses 4-7:

*13 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

Thank you Ted.

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Now in the presence of God, their family, friends and neighbors, I will now ask Frank and Diane to renew their vows to each other.

Frank and Diane have chosen to repeat today the very same vows that Reverend Paul Baker, Diane's father, and minister of Trinity United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana asked them to repeat on June 3, 1972, over fifty years ago when he married them.

Reverend Baker is no longer with us, but I know that he and his wife, Flossine, and Frank's mom and dad, Anthony and Carmela Lancione would be thrilled that Frank and Diane are celebrating this wonderful milestone.

Ted, can you please bring the rings forward. **[Ted gives the rings to Joe]**

There is a story to these rings. Frank and Diane were students who had just finished up their education when they decided to get married. The job market was terrible at the time, They had school debt, no money, and no prospects. But, they decided that whatever life was going to bring, they wanted to face it together.

Somehow, Frank was able to scrape up a few hundred dollars and talk a graduate art student to make these rings for him and Diane. Because it was an art project for a grade, the student created each ring as a small piece of sculpture. They truly are one of a kind and are by far the nicest piece of original art that Frank and Diane would ever own for the rest of their lives.

They couldn't afford a diamond at the time., so the ring originally had a green semi-precious peridot stone. It was only recently in anticipation of this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary that Frank and Diane finally had these rings resized and got a Diane a diamond to celebrate their marriage.

So now, let us proceed with the vows.

**[Joe gives Diane's ring to Frank and then says:]**

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Frank, do you wish to recommit your vow to take, Diane, to be your lawfully wedded wife?

Frank responds, "I do."

Then please place the ring on Diane's finger and repeat after me:

**[Frank places the ring on Diane's finger, holds her hand, and looks her in the eyes. Joe then says the vow a few words at a time giving Frank a chance to repeat the words until he completes the vow.]**

*I, Frank A. Lancione, --recommit my vow to take you, Diane -- to be my lawfully wedded wife, -- to have and to hold,-- from this day forward, -- for better, for worse, --for richer, for poorer, --in sickness and in health, -- so long as we both shall live.*

**[When Frank has finished saying his vow, Frank releases Diane's hand. Diane then looks at Joe. Joe then gives Frank's ring to Diane and then says:]**

Diane, do you wish to recommit your vow to take, Frank, to be your lawfully wedded husband?

Diane responds, "I do."

Then please place the ring on Frank's finger and repeat after me:

**[Joe says the vow a few words at a time giving Diane a chance to repeat the words until she completes the vow.]**

*I, Diane B. Lancione, -- recommit my vow to take you, Frank --to be my lawfully wedded husband, --to have and to hold, --from this day forward, --for better, for worse, --for richer, for poorer,-- in sickness and in health, -so long as we both shall live.*

**[Joe then takes a hand from Diane and one from Frank, joins them together, wraps his hand around their joined hands and lifts the hands**



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**of all three of them clasped together into the air to show the crowd that they have been joined together. Joe then says:]**

This man and this woman have recommitted their vow to live together in holy matrimony before God, their friends, and their family. What God has joined together, no one on earth can break asunder.

Folks, I present to you Mr. and Mrs. Frank and Diane Lancione.

Frank, you may now kiss your bride!

**[Joe then says to the crowd:]**

Folks we are going to give you a little time to get some more food and refresh your drinks. In the meantime, the servers are going to get everything ready for the champagne toast and the cutting of the cake. Following those two events, several of Frank and Diane's family and friends are going to each have a few minutes to share their views on what it means to love and be committed to another person for fifty years. Then, depending on how much time is left I am going to open the floor for any of you who want to share memories and stories – especially embarrassing stories – about times you have had with Frank and Diane. So eat, drink, and get prepared to have some fun!]