Any remarriage in the Episcopal Church is subject to Canon 19.3 and in addition you may assume the following as standard protocol in the Diocese of East Tennessee.

If one or both persons desiring to be married have divorced once with a former spouse still living, the bishop will grant permission for the marriage if:

1. Canon 19.3 has been satisfied…(the front page and signature page of divorce decree and request for marriage be submitted to the bishop at least 30 days before intended date of marriage).
2. The couple has undergone counseling by the clergy or a professional counselor.
3. The attached form has been thoughtfully completed and submitted to the bishop.

If one or both persons desiring to be married have been divorced twice with one or more former spouses still living, no assumption should be made that the bishop will grant the request. Each decision will be made on an individual basis and will be considered by the bishop if:

1. Canon 19.3 has been satisfied…(the front page and signature page of divorce decree and request for marriage be submitted to the bishop at least 30 days before intended date of marriage).
2. The couple has undergone counseling by the clergy and a professional counselor.
3. All the forms attached (19.3. One and Two) have been completed and submitted to the bishop.

If one or both persons desiring to be married have divorced three or more times, the assumption may be made that the bishop will not grant the request. However, grace
demands that we look at each circumstance individually and if extenuating circumstances are present, the request will be reviewed.

1. Canon 19.3 has been satisfied…(the front page and signature page of divorce decree and request for marriage be submitted to the bishop at least 30 days before intended date of marriage).
2. The couple has undergone counseling by the clergy and a professional counselor.
3. All the forms attached (19.3.One and Two) have been completed and submitted to the bishop.

The attached forms are intended to be an aid for clergy as they counsel and direct the couple seeking re-marriage. In filling out the forms with the couple, clergy will receive insight that can guide future sessions with them.
Application Seeking Permission to Solemnize a Remarriage in the Diocese of East Tennessee

ISSUED JANUARY 2022

Please complete and submit all pages at once. Sections A through D are to be completed by the priest who plans to solemnize the marriage in conversation with the couple. Section E is to be completed by the couple in conversation with the priest.

Section A

On _______________, I, _____________________________ was informed that the couple named below wish to be married at ______________________________ on ________________.

(Name of Parish) (Date)

Section B: Information on Spouse 1 …please print

Name: ____________________________ Date of Birth: ____________________________

Address: __________________________________ ____________________________

(City) (State) (Zip) (Area code and Number) Telephone: ____________________

Baptized: ______ Denomination: ____________________ Active Member of a Church? ______

How many previous marriages for Spouse 1? 0__ 1__ 2__ 3 or more _____ If so, please continue

Number of previous spouses still living _____

Date of previous marriage(s) ____________________ Places: ____________________________

________________________  ____________________________

Child(ren) by previous marriage(s): ______ If yes, give ages: ____________________________

Date(s) and Place(s) of Divorce Decree(s): ____________________________

________________________  ____________________________

Are there any obligations (financial or otherwise) from previous marriage(s) to a spouse(s) or child(ren)? __________________________________________________

Are they being honored? ________________ Is the intention to continue honoring them? ______________________
**Section C:** Information on Spouse 2 …please print

Name: ___________________________________________ Date of Birth: ___________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________________________

Telephone: ______________________________________________________________________________

(City) (State) (Zip) (Area code and Number)

Baptized: _______  Denomination: ___________________  Active Member of a Church? ___________

How many previous marriages for Spouse 2?  0 ___  1 ___  2 ___  3 or more ______  If so, please continue

Number of previous spouses still living ____

Date of previous marriage(s) ________________  Places: _________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________  ____________________________________________

Child(ren) by previous marriage(s): _______  If yes, give ages: ________________________________

Date(s) and Place(s) of Divorce Decree(s): __________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________  ____________________________________________

Are there any obligations (financial or otherwise) from previous marriage(s) to a spouse(s) or child(ren)?

________________________________________  ____________________________________________  __________________________________________

Are they being honored? _________________  Is the intention to continue honoring them? __________

**Section D: To be filled out by the Priest**

How long has this couple known one another? _______  How long have you known them? _________________

Have you examined the Divorce Decree(s)?: _______  Date of decree(s): __________________________

Did you provide the pre-marital counseling? _____________________  If not, who did_______________

Number of sessions?______

What do you to believe to be the most helpful insight the couple learned in the counseling process? ____________

________________________________________  ____________________________________________

If either party has more than one divorce… please attach statement from professional counselor stating findings and opinion from the counselor regarding the suitability of the couple for marriage.

Priests additional comments:

(If you need more space m please use the back of this form)
Section E: To be filled out by the couple

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY
When two people come to the Church seeking its blessing at the celebration of their marriage it is our understanding that they are then inviting the Church to be a participant in their marital union. Accepting this invitation we seek to instruct them as to the nature, meaning and purpose of Holy Matrimony as Christians understand it following the model given us by the relationship between Christ and His Church. Further, we offer as a community of faith and love, to support them in their marriage in the years ahead.

Following the Canons of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, the priest who is to solemnize the marriage of a divorced person is required to consult with and obtain the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese prior to the wedding ceremony.

The purpose of this application is to ascertain the intention of the couple with regard to their relationship to the Church, that the bishop might give his consent in good conscience.

Having read the above, and in consultation with your priest, please take time to discuss and answer the following questions.

1. When relationships fail, the failure is rarely one-sided. Have you discussed with your priest, and your fiancé, your part in the failure of your previous marriage(s)?
   Spouse 1: yes _____ no _____ n/a_______  Spouse 2: yes ____ no _____ n/a_______

2. As a couple, please describe what role you see the Church playing in your new relationship, and how you plan to participate in the life of the Church? (If you need more space, please use the back of this form)

3. Is there any additional information you would like the bishop to know?  
   (If you need more space, please use the back of this form)

The following is to be signed by both individuals of the intended marriage.

We, _________________________________ and _________________________________ desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of two adults as it is set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.

We believe that this union, in heart, body and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God’s will for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God’s help thereto.

Signed: _______________________________ and _______________________________ Date: ___________
RECORD OF MARRIAGE

To The Rt. Rev. Brian L. Cole,
Bishop of East Tennessee:

This will certify that on _________________ (Date)

I did solemnize the marriage of

____________________________________ and ____________________________________

at

_________________________________________________________________________________(Church and City)

The Bishop's consent was given on

___________________________ (Date)

________________________________________

Signature of Clergy person Officiating

___________________________ (Date)

Within five days of the marriage, please return this Record of Marriage to:

Mr. Jon Humber, Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee, 814 Episcopal School Way, Knoxville, TN 37932