

A) Unity Sand Ceremony



1. Non-religious Sand Ceremony (In-Lieu of Rings)

In Lieu of Rings the couple will have a sand ceremony.

(Groom) and **(Bride)**, today you are making a life-long commitment to share the rest of your lives with each other. As you each hold your jar of sand; which represents your lives up to this moment; individual and unique. As you now combine your sand together, your lives also join together as one.

***Groom** pours half of his sand into the central vase*

***Bride** pours half of her sand into the vase*

2. Non-religious Sand Ceremony

(Bride) and **(Groom)**, you have committed here today to share the rest of your lives with each other. We have witnessed your giving and receiving of rings and the exchange of vows . Now we will observe you create a lasting visual representation of these promises.

The *(insert color)* sand represents **(Bride)** and all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be. The *(insert color)* sand represents

(Groom) and all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be.

Your relationship is symbolized through the pouring of these two individual containers of sand into one container. You will note that the individual colors do not cease to exist, but that there are times when the two are blended. **It is this blending that is marriage.**

3. Religious Sand Ceremony

(Bride) and **(Groom)**, you have committed here today to share the rest of your lives with each other. We have witnessed your giving and receiving of rings and the exchange of vows . Now we will observe you create a lasting visual representation of these promises.

The *(insert color)* sand represents **(Bride)** and all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be. The *(insert color)* sand represents **(Groom)** and all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be. The third *(insert color-usually white or gold)* container represents God.

(Minister pours the third container) Your spiritual beliefs are the foundation for your marriage. **(Bride)**, pour some of your sand which will represent you as an individual. **(Groom)**, pour some of your sand which will represent you as an individual.

(Minister pours more of the third container) Let God forever support you in your relationship. **(Bride)** and **(Groom)**, now pour your remaining sand into the container together to represent the joining of your two individual lives into this union of marriage.

4. **Colors representing aspects of the relationship – Sand Ceremony**

In this Unity Sand ceremony, you will create a lasting visual representation of the promises and intentions for your marriage. As I describe the various colors and their meanings, pour them into the container representing your marriage.

Red represents a passion for life, physical energy and health.

Orange shows sweetness, trust, and creativity.

With yellow you bring in respect, personal power and spontaneity.

Compassion, unconditional love, and balance are represented by green.

Blue is the color of communication, contentedness, harmony and self expression.

With Indigo you bring in intuition, wisdom, emotional intelligence and charisma.

Violet represents peace, spirituality and selflessness.

White is the color of purity and a connection with a Higher Power, God, Divine and Spirit.

5. **Blended Family Sand Ceremony**

(Bride) and **(Groom)** have chosen to memorialize their commitment to each other and to their family with a Sand Ceremony.

Each family member has a container of sand to represent _____
(the sand can represent either their personal qualities that they do bring to the family or to represent the qualities you want to bring into the family relationship-whichever you prefer)

Describe each person's color and what it means _____
examples: _____ has sand the color of _____ which depicts _____
(for example Susan has sand the color of red which represents passion for life, Mary has sand the color of yellow representing her sunny smile and disposition. Peter's sand is purple to represent his spirituality and connection to the Divine. Jean has sand the color of green which represents her connection to earth, growth and new beginnings. The Blue sand belongs to Mark which represents his ability to speak and live his truth.)

Each family member will pour a little of their sand into the container.

You will notice that in spots the sand remains distinct because each person is an individual. The colors compliment and support each other, just the members of a family compliment and support each other.

Now they will pour in the sand simultaneously. You will note how the colors blend. This is to demonstrate the unity of family, the togetherness, the blending of personalities, strengths and needs.

B) Unity Candle Ceremony



1. Traditional Unity Candle Vows

(Bride) and **(Groom)** the two lighted candles symbolize your separate lives, your separate families and your separate sets of friends. I ask that you each take one candle and that together you light the center candle. The individual candles represent your individual lives before today. Lighting the center candle represents that your two lives are now joined to one light, and represents the joining together of your two families and sets of friends to one.

2. Spiritual Unity Candle Vows

Every human being possesses a special light that burns within them. When two spirits, destined to be together, find each other, their streams of light flow together, and a single brighter light, goes forth from their union.

(Bride) and **(Groom)**, by committing to one another today, you kindle the light within each other, and promise to do your best to always see that light within each other, to nurture and tend that flame in your

partner as best you can, especially in difficult times, when this may be hardest to do.

(Bride), take this candle as a symbol of your spirit, and **(Groom)**, take this candle as a symbol of your spirit.

Now joining your individual flames together, light the center candle which symbolizes the spirit of your union and the new greater flame of your marriage. As you do so, silently vow to tend the spirit of this union, and never forget that just as this union is made stronger by your strength as individuals, so are you as individuals made stronger by this union.

3. Unity Candle with presentation of parents

The parents come forward and light two candles, one on either side of the Unity Candle. After the marriage and ring vows, but before the pronouncement, the minister says:

In your marriage you draw upon the traditions of your two families that you bring to your marriage. As you come together you create a new home and a new family, born from the light that each of you brings to it. What you have created is new, but it is rooted in the families from which you have come.

May your lives always be enriched by the family heritage each of you brings to your marriage. Use these candles, symbols of your family traditions, to create the single flame, symbol of the new family which you create today. The **(Bride)** and **(Groom)** take the candles which their parents have lighted and together light the Unity Candle.

4. Unity Candle Ceremony - Bride, Groom and Mothers of the Birde and Groom

(Using the mother's first names) _____ and _____, mothers of the **(Bride)** and **(Groom)**, will now come forward to light the taper candles for the Unity Candle Ceremony. The two individual flames, one representing each family, will demonstrate to us - in a very beautiful and inclusiveness way - the symbol of two who become one as well as the faith, wisdom, and love that **(Bride)** and **(Groom)** have received from their parents.

Through the love your paths have come together, and in this symbolic ceremony, you will each take a lighted candle, representing your previous separate pathways, and together you will light the Unity candle, symbolizing your willingness to walk life's pathways together as one. You may now proceed in the lighting of the candle. **(Bride)**, **(Groom)** light the Unity Candle

By allowing the flame of the two taper candles to remain lit, they also accept the individuality of each other as a means to fulfilling their commitment to one another. May the Spirit of Life bless this marriage. So be it.

5. **Unity Candle Ceremony choice of relatives to represent couple**

Living in a committed relationship changes us. We become more than we were before. We do not cease to be individuals, leading individual lives; but something new is created. It is not that we become one thing and are no longer two people. Rather it is that a new life, a life between us, begins to exist and grow as our relationship grows.

I invite _____ and _____, as representatives of **(Bride)**'s and **(Groom)**'s separate lives, to light two flames, from which **(Bride)** and **(Groom)** will light a common candle as a sign of the new life this union today creates.

(Bride) and **(Groom)** your lives are now joined in the most sacred and joyous of unions. We pray that your life be blessed. In the immortal words of the poet mystic William Blake, together may you...
See a world in a grain of sand and heaven in a wild flower
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand and eternity in an home.

6. **Unity Candle Ceremony choice Maid of Honor and Best Man**

A Unity Candle Ceremony is a lovely way to emphasize the joining together, not only of the bridal couple, but their families as well.

(Bride) and **(Groom)** have chosen to affirm their marriage by the lighting of a Unity Candle. The flame of the candle represents light, spirit; and fire - and is often

said to symbolize inspiration, aspiration, power and passion.

By lighting a Unity Candle, they signal their desire to not only join as one in their union, but to unite two families together as one.

Will a member of the **(Bride)** and **(Groom)**'s families please light a side candle which represents the separate lives, families and experiences before the wedding day? "

(Maid of Honor and Best Man each light a candle).

"A candle has been lit for each of your families.

_____ and _____, please use those candles to light the Unity Candle together."

((Bride) and **(Groom)** take the side candles and use them to light the center 'Unity' candle.)

"Prior to this moment you each walked a separate path.

With the lighting of the center candle you have now symbolically joined your once separate lives.

As two flames combined into one light, so now are your friends and family joined, through you, into one."

C) Unity Cross Ceremony



Option 1

At this time, **(Bride)** and **(Groom)** will assemble the Unity Cross, a beautiful sculpture they will display in their home to remind them of the covenant they are making today.

In Genesis chapter 1, we read that God created man in his own image. That means that He created man bold, strong. To be a leader and protector of his wife and family.

*Minister Holds Outer Cross **(Groom)**: The outer form of the Unity Cross represents the strength, leadership and protection of the man.*

*Minister Hands piece to **(Bride)** and **(Groom)** places cross on to base*

*Minister Holds Inner Cross **(Bride)**: Genesis also told us that the woman was taken from man. **Bride's** piece of the Unity Cross represents the beauty and the many possibilities of the woman, designed with intricate, beautiful detail and is placed inside the protection of **Groom's** cross, completing the cross and representing them becoming one.*

*Minister Hands piece to **(Bride)** and **(Groom)** places it into the center of the **(Groom)**'s cross*

In representing the couple's covenant, I will place three pegs to bind the cross together. These pegs represent the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, showing God's place in this covenant and the security and completeness only he can give.

Minister inserts pegs into cross

With the joining of this cross **(Bride)** and **(Groom)** are no longer two individuals but stand before you joined together as one. Therefore, what God has joined here, let no one set asunder.

Option 2

A marriage takes hard work and dedication which creates unity. To display this unity **(Bride)** and **(Groom)** will lock together a cross as a symbol of **Groom's** strength and **Bride's** inner beauty. As you each hold your cross; which represents your lives up to this moment; individual and unique. As you now combine your cross together, your lives also join together as one, a symbol of your unity. Now we will observe you create a lasting visual representation of these promises.

Groom holds outer cross while **Bride** insert inner cross locking them together.

D) Binding of Hands Ceremony

1. Holding hands

Please face each other and take each other's hands, so that you may see the gift that they are to you. These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow and forever. These are the hands that will work alongside yours as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch will comfort you like no other. These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief temporarily comes to you. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes, tears of sorrow and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children, the hands that will join your family as one. These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it, support and encouragement to pursue your dreams, and comfort through difficult times.

And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

2. Handfasting or "Tying the knot"



The ancient Celtic tradition of handfasting is a wonderful way for couples (Irish or not!) to symbolize a commitment and eternal bond during a wedding ceremony. It comes during the "Vows" section of the ceremony. In handfasting, the wrists of the couple are bound together with a ribbon or cord. Each party holds the hands of the other, right hand to right hand, left hand to left, their wrists crossed. The ribbon is wound around the wrists, over the top of one and under and around the other, creating the infinity symbol. It is said that this practice is the origin of the term 'tying the knot'.

(Bride) and **(Groom)** have chosen to incorporate the Celtic marriage ritual of handfasting into their ceremony today. The traditional ceremony from whence comes the expression "tying the knot."

(Bride) and **(Groom)**, I bid you to look into each others eyes.

(Bride hands bouquet to Maid of Honor then Bride & Groom hold hands)

Will you honor and respect one another,
and seek to never break that honor?

-**We will** [the first cord is draped over the couples' hands]
And so the first binding is made.

Will you share each other's pain and seek to ease it?

-**We will** [Second cord is draped over the hands]
And so the binding is made

Will you share the burdens of each so that your spirits may grow in this union?

-**We will** [third cord is draped over the couples' hands]
And so the binding is made.

Will you share each other's laughter, and look for the brightness in life and the positive in each other?

-**We will.** [forth cord is draped over the couples' hands]
And so the binding is made.

Will you give yourself and your love only to the other, keeping the commitment of these promises?

-**We will.** [fifth cord is draped over the hands]
And so the binding is made.

And when you falter, will you have the courage and commitment to remember these promises and take a step back towards one another with an open heart?

-We will. [the sixth cord is draped over the couples' hands]
And so the binding is made.

[Tie cords together loosely so they may be slipped off still tied]

(Bride) and **(Groom)**, as your hands are bound together now, so your lives and spirits are joined in a union of love and trust.

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever. These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future, and your family. These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it. And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

(ribbons are slipped off and handed to the best man for safe keeping)

3. **Handfasting with a cord**

As this knot is tied, so are your lives now bound. Woven into this cord, imbued into its very fibers, are all the hopes of your friends and family, and of yourselves, for your new life together. With the fashioning of this knot do I tie all the desires, dreams, love, and happiness wished here in this place to your lives for as long as love shall last. In the joining of hands and the fashion of a knot, so are your lives now bound, one to another. By this cord you are thus bound to your vow.

May this knot remain tied for as long as love shall last. May this cord draw your hands together in love, never to be used in anger. May the vows you have spoken never grow bitter in your mouths. As any child discovers when they are learning to tie their own shoes, the first move is to cross the ends. The cross creates the Rune Gebo (X), which is the Rune of partnership and union. As your hands are bound by this cord, so is your partnership held by the symbol of this knot. May it be granted that what is done before the gods be not undone by man.

Two entwined in love, bound by commitment and fear, sadness and joy, by hardship and victory, anger and reconciliation, all of which brings strength to this union. Hold tight to one another through both good times and bad, and watch as your strength grows.

4. **Handfasting with water**

As the water is poured and the two become one, the halves become invisible, indefinable, a true whole.

Take up now your vessels which represent your own persons. The water within them is as your own lives, similar yet separate. In the mixing of these fluids in the singular vessel of your union are your lives thus blended. See how the two, once separate, are a complete whole. So now are your lives.

Water to water, and soul to soul. Love binds and blends us all.

5. **Handfasting by flame**

Let the fires of your love for one another and the fire of your spirits mingle here and create a singular flame.

By the bringing and sharing of light, display your intent; let the two fires of your spirits and love for one another merge as one.

Fires of passion and love, join here and become one, as do these people before you.

Each of you take a candle representing your singular selves. Let them meet and unite here at the center. Now extinguish your singular lights, and rejoice in the enduring flame of your love.

Take up and light the candles before you, representing your individual lives. Examine the flame, how it can warm, how it can energize, and how it can harm; fire is both creation and destruction. As you light the candle of your union, bring into it the fire of your love, the warmth of your compassion, and the spark of creativity. So Mote It Be

E. Lasso (Lazo) and Coins (Arras) Ceremony



Lasso Ceremony:

(Minister places Lasso around couple)

This cord symbolizes an infinite bond of love you share that keeps your relationship strong in the face of adversity, as well as that you both are no longer two, but one in marriage. May this cord remind you to face your life together courageously and to be mutual in support of each other in carrying out your duties and responsibilities as a couple and, may your love grow stronger and bind you closer together through the years.

(The Lasso is removed)

(Bride) and **(Groom)** I would ask that you always treat yourself and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together today.

Coin Exchange

(Bride) and **(Groom)** you have just sealed your relationship by the giving and receiving of rings and this is a pledge between two people who agree that they will commit themselves to one another throughout their lives.

Now let us do an exchange of the coins also known as “Arras”.

Originally, there was an understanding of husband as "bread winner" and wife as "home maker" so the coins were given and received not in a spirit of reciprocity but in a give/take relationship. Nowadays the coins are a reminder of good stewardship for all couples; that they will mutually support each other, their children and the world around them. May God bless these coins that symbolizes mutual support and responsibility.

(As the couple exchange the coins repeat after me):

(GROOM Repeats) BRIDE , I give you these coins as a ledge of my dedication to you, the care of our home, and the welfare of our children.

(BRIDE Repeats) GROOM , I give you these coins as a pledge of my dedication to you, the care of our home, and the welfare of our children.

E) Unity Tree Planting Ceremony



Just like the unity candle and unity sand ceremony. The unity tree planting ceremony can be used to symbolize the joining together of two individuals or the joining of two families.

The ceremony is conducted in much the same way as other unity ceremonies are. You set up a separate table near the alter. On this table you would have a potted tree/sapling, something perhaps with special meaning to the couple or taken from a special place. You would also have two small buckets of dirt, two gardening trowels as well as a small watering can placed on the table.

If you choose to have the ceremony symbolize the joining together of both family's then upon the entrance of the mothers, each mother goes to the table and scoops in a small amount of dirt. Then they take their seats.

During a specific reading or song, the couple will each add the remainder of dirt and water the plant together.

After the ceremony, the couple plants the tree in at their home or a special location to symbolize the putting down of roots, longevity and strengths in their marriage.

Here is an example of some wording the Officiant may say during the

planting:

Officiant:

(Bride) and **(Groom)** will now take part in a Tree Planting Ceremony, to symbolize the roots of their relationship, and the continued growth of their love, as they become each other's family today.

Love is the essence of human experience and emotion. It is the root of all and everything we, as humans, do. Love enriches our experience, and fills our lives with meaning. It gives us a firm base from which to grow, to learn, and change.

Let your relationship and your love for each other be like this tree you plant today. Let it grow tall and strong. Let it stand tall during the harsh winds and rains and storms, and come through unscathed. Like a tree, your marriage must be resilient. It must weather the challenges of daily life and the passage of time.

And just like the tree that they are planting, marriage requires constant nurturing and nourishment. As they provide the sun, soil, and water for this tree, they will provide the encouragement, trust, and love needed on a daily basis to consciously nurture and nourish their connection to each other.

After the ceremony, the couple plants the tree in at their home or a special location to symbolize the putting down of roots, longevity and strength in their marriage.

F) Broom Jumping Ceremony



Officiant: **(Bride)** and **(Groom)** have decided to include a Broom Jumping Ceremony to represent their renewed commitment to each other. The broom symbolically represents the sweeping away of the old and the welcoming of the new; the sweeping away all negative energy, making way for all things that are good to come into your lives.

Action: One of the attendants or a special guest then hands the broom to the husband, who makes sweeping gestures to eliminate any negative energies. The husband then hands the broom to his wife, who places it on the ground in their path.

Officiant: Sharing a life with another person requires many “leaps of faith.” The leap they take together over the broom is also symbolic. By taking the leap, they make a gesture of dedication to working together through the tough times ahead, as well as the easy times. They leave behind the past and jump into the future together secure in their love.

Everyone count 1, 2, 3... Jump! Together! 1, 2, 3... Jump!

G) Ring Warming

Ring Warming:

During this ceremony Groom and Bride will exchange rings. These rings are visible sign of their commitment to one another. As this ceremony proceeds, we invite family and friends to take part in the warming of the rings. We ask that you wish them health and happiness, and all that is noble in life. I ask that each guest hold them for a moment, warm them with your love and make a silent wish for this family, and their future together. When these rings come back they will contain, in their precious metal, that which is more precious, that which is priceless – your love and hope and pledge of support for their union.”

(Person holding the rings) hands the rings to the first person in row one on the Bride’s side.

Minister: I ask everyone now to warm the rings and pass the rings on the person beside you while we continue the ceremony.

Ceremony continues as the rings are passed

May I now have the rings that have been blessed by your loved ones.

(rings come back to the front row of the Groom’s side and are handed to the Groom who then hands the rings to the Minister)

H) Love Letter Ceremony



Option 1: Letter from the couple to each other

(Bride) and **(Groom)** have chosen to include this **LOVE LETTER CEREMONY** in today's proceedings.

Both **(Bride)** and **(Groom)** have taken the time to compose a letter addressed to the other. Inside are heartfelt words describing their feelings, their aspirations for the future, and reasons why they have chosen to marry one another here today. The letters have been sealed and neither has seen what the other has written. These sealed letters will encapsulate the romance and sense of hope that they both are feeling as this special time in their relationship.

(The sealed letters are given to the Officiant)

The letters along with this bottle of wine and two goblets will be locked into this special box designed specifically for this purpose. Display this box in a prominent location in your home to remind yourselves about the commitment that you have made here today.

Officiant: **(Bride)** and **(Groom)**, do you promise to respect and honor the commitments you have made here today and through kindness and compassion achieve the life you have planned together?

(Bride) and **(Groom)** respond together: **"I DO"**

(Bride) and **(Groom)** will re-open and enjoy the contents of this box on the occasion of their ___ year anniversary.

There is only one other time that you are able to unlock and partake in the contents of this box. If at some point in the future, your relationship falters and you feel like you have lost your way, sit down as a couple and open the box. Uncork and enjoy the wine you have selected for this ceremony. Open the love letter that your partner has written for you and carefully read the contents.

It is my sincere hope, and of these here today that have witnessed this ceremony, that the romantic sentiments and words of commitment you have written to one another will always serve you as a gift beyond measure. May they always remind you of the love you have for each other, be it the ___th or 50th year of your marriage.

Option 2: Letters from close friends and family members

(Bride) and **(Groom)** have chosen to include this **LOVE LETTER CEREMONY** in today's proceedings.

Both **(Bride)** and **(Groom)** have asked their close friends and family to write them heartfelt words describing their feelings, their aspirations for the future, advice and well wishes.

I now ask that the Maid of Honor and Best Man please gather the letters from the couple's loved ones.

Maid of Honor and Best Man collect the letters from each side of the rows and bring them up to the couple.

The letters along with this bottle of wine and two goblets will be locked into this special box designed specifically for this purpose. Display this box in a prominent location in your home to remind yourselves about the commitment that you have made here today.

(Bride) and **(Groom)** will re-open and enjoy the contents of this box on the occasion of their ___ year anniversary.

There is only one other time that you are able to unlock and partake in the contents of this box. If at some point in the future, your relationship falters and you feel like you have lost your way, sit down as a couple and open the box. Uncork and enjoy the wine you have selected for this ceremony. Read what your love ones have written and allow their kind words and advice guide you through the troubled times. Hold close the meanings of these letters and May they always remind you of the love you have for each other.

G. Rose Ceremony

In the Rose Ceremony, the Bride and Groom give each other a Rose. Two roses are all that is necessary. The Rose Ceremony is placed at the end of the ceremony just before being pronounced husband and wife. In the old language of flowers, a single red rose always meant "I love you". The Rose ceremony gives recognition to the new and most honorable title of "Husband and Wife".

Rose Ceremony Sample 1

"Your gift to each other for your wedding today has been your wedding rings - which shall always be an outward demonstration of your vows of love and respect; and a public showing of your commitment to each other.

You now have what remains the most honorable title which may exist between a man and a woman - the title of "husband" and "wife." For your first gift as husband and wife, that gift will be a single rose.

In the past, the rose was considered a symbol of love and a single rose always meant only one thing - it meant the words "I love you." So it is appropriate that for your first gift - as husband and wife - that gift would be a single rose.

Please exchange your first gift as husband and wife. In some ways it seems like you have not done anything at all. Just a moment ago you were holding one small rose - and now you are holding one small rose. In some ways, a marriage ceremony is like this. In some ways, tomorrow is going to seem no different than yesterday. But in fact today, just now, you both have given and received one of the most valuable and precious gifts of life - one I hope you always remember - the gift of true and abiding love within the devotion of marriage.

(Bride and Groom), I would ask that where ever you make your home in the future - whether it be a large and elegant home - or a small and graceful one - that you both pick one very special location for roses; so that on each anniversary of this truly wonderful occasion you both

may take a rose to that spot both as a recommitment to your marriage - and a recommitment that THIS will be a marriage based upon love.

In every marriage there are times where it is difficult to find the right words. It is easiest to hurt who we most love. It is easiest to be most hurt by who we most love. It might be difficult some time to words to say "I am sorry" or "I forgive you"; "I need you" or "I am hurting". If this should happen, if you simply can not find these words, leave a rose at that spot which both of you have selected - for that rose than says what matters most of all and should overpower all other things and all other words.

That rose says the words: "I still love you." The other should accept this rose for the words which can not be found, and remember the love and hope that you both share today.

(Bride and Groom), if there is anything you remember of this marriage ceremony, it is that it was love that brought you here today, it is only love which can make it a glorious union, and it is by love which your marriage shall endure."

Rose Ceremony Sample 2

Bride and Groom, you will remember this day for the rest of your lives. Those of us who are already married know that marriage, like life, brings with it many joys and also many challenges. We also know that love, while beautiful, does not always show its prettiest face. There are days when we may find it hard to express the depth of our love for one another. It is my hope and prayer that the two of you will set aside a special place in your home for roses, ancient symbols of love. When words fail you, or when the challenges of life or marriage begin to weigh on you, go out and get a rose, and put it in that special place in your home, so that the other will be reminded of this moment, and of the love you feel for one another. As a token of that love, I would like to ask you to make these roses your first gifts to one another as a married couple.

Rose Ceremony Sample 3

A single red rose always meant "I love you".

Your gift to each other for your wedding today has been your wedding rings - which shall always be an outward demonstration of your vows of love and respect; and a public showing of your commitment to each other.

But for your first gift as husband and wife I want you now to give each other the gift of a single rose. So please exchange your first gift as husband and wife; a gift of true and abiding love within the devotion of marriage.

Remember, the single rose says the words: "I love you".

There may be times filled with happiness, sorrow, tears or laughter, whatever it may be, remember love has given you wings; your journey begins today; (Bride and Groom), if there is anything you remember of this marriage ceremony, remember the love that brought you here today, it is only love which can make your marriage a glorious union, and it is by love that your marriage will endure.

Rose Ceremony Sample 4- Presentation of Roses to Couple's Mothers
Groom and Bride, today you stand before us ready to share the rest of your lives together as a married couple.

But long before today your parents provided you with a foundation of love and caring which has brought you to this point.

At this time Groom and Bride would like to acknowledge the love and sacrifice that each mother has made to make their children who they are today....a man and a woman who are ready to be committed, in a loving marriage of their own... They honor their mothers with the symbolic gift of beauty, the giving of a rose.

(Bride and groom each present a rose to their mother-then return in front of officiant)

H. Wine Sharing Ceremony

Sharing wine from a Unity or Kiddush Cup during your ceremony symbolizes unity, companionship and the sharing of one life. In the Jewish tradition the couple drinks from a Kiddush cup, while the unity cup is an appropriate celebration for couples of any denomination or belief.

In this ceremony the couple takes turns sharing wine from a single Unity or Kiddush Cup. We can choose an appropriate reading to accompany your ceremony.

The cup can be as simple as a piece of inexpensive stemware, or as elaborate as a handcrafted, one-of-a-kind goblet. Many couples choose a cup with the idea that it will become a display piece in their home, or an heirloom to pass to the next generation.

You may also use any Drink you would like, doesn't have to be wine.

Option 1: Religious (For non-religious cut the blessing)

"Blessed are you Lord, God of all creation, in your goodness you have given us wine to gladden our hearts and lift our spirits. Many grapes have become one wine, so may [name] and [name] lives be blended into one loving union. And as they share from this one cup, gladden [name] and [name] hearts, and make them one with each other and with Your abiding love."

"This cup of wine, the Kiddush cup [or unity cup], is symbolic of the cup of life. As you drink from the cup, may you share all the sweetness the future brings. May you find life's joys gladdened with true companionship and love. We praise You, Eternal one, Creator of the fruit of the vine."

I. Chocolate Wine Ceremony

This ceremony represents that life has both bitter and sweet moments.

Supplies

- Two small portions of Dark Chocolate to represent the bitter
- Two glasses of Red Wine to represent the sweet

Placement: This ceremony enhancement can be placed anywhere in the ceremony but many couples elect to put it just before their vows

Spoken by the Officiant

_____ and _____, life is filled with days of great sweetness, and days of bitter sorrow. There are celebrations, and there are tears. There are triumphs, and there are tragedies. Life holds indescribable happiness for you both and unavoidable pain. And so to symbolize your acceptance of this reality, today you will share the bitter and the sweet together, just as you have shared them in the past and will share them in the years to come together.

Both of you take and eat this bitter, dark chocolate. Taste in it the dark days which that have and will rock your marriage and test its strength. It represents disappointment, illness, grief. Know that these hard times will come, and with them, the opportunity to deepen your bond. Now, take and drink this sweet red wine. Taste in it the sweetness and light that fills your marriage with joy. Savor the fruits of this wine, just as you savor every happiness that your beloved brings you. It represents shared laughter, your children's successes, and your anniversary. Delight in it, as you delight in each other. Combined these items are representational of what you experience in life, and just like today, you will share them and experience them together for all the days to come.