


# How many ways can you say UNION?

By Nicole K. Garner, The Garner Circle, A Special Events Firm – pg. 12

What is the definition of Union? According to Webster's Dictionary and Hyper Dictionary, Union is ...

 *The act of uniting or joining two or more things into one, or the state of being united or joined; junction; coalition; combination.*

 *An agreement and conjunction of mind, spirit, will, affections, or the like; harmony; concord.*

 *A state of being husband and wife; "a long and happy marriage"; "God bless this union"*

Just as there are so many different ways to define the word there are as many different ways to portray or symbolize unification in your wedding ceremony.



## **The Unity Candle**

The Unity Candle symbolizes not only two people, but two families uniting into one. The act begins with the bride's family lighting a taper candle followed by the groom's family lighting a taper candle. After the couple completes their vows and pronouncement they seal their union by lighting the middle candle unanimously. This symbolizes both families igniting a flame that will always burn unanimously in the lives of their children and further generations to come.

## **The Sand Ceremony**

The Sand Ceremony is utilized to represent all that one is, all that they ever were, and all that they will ever be. The ceremony begins with the bride and groom both holding their individual cylinders of sand. The minister holds a third cylinder and then the bride and groom pour their sand simultaneously into the third cylinder. This symbolizes that the individual containers no longer exist. The myth behind this ceremony is that the only way the marriage would cease to exist is if one could successfully restore the original sand into their initial containers.



## **A Bouquet of Everlasting Love**

Choosing a flower for its symbolism adds more to this deed. Roses, which traditionally mean love, spirituality, and charm, can best be used in this ceremony. The mother of the bride and groom both carry full sized bouquets down the aisle and place them in rather large vases. After the couple completes their vows they pick a single rose from each bouquet, tie a knot around them and put them in a smaller vase. Typically these single stemmed roses are preserved and symbolize a life of beauty and everlasting endearment.

© Copyright 2004. This article is the property of The Garner Circle PR & Special Events Firm.