

## UU101 Notes for 45-60 Minute Session

### I. Introductions of participants

- a. Your religious background
- b. What brought you to us today?

### II. Key points about us

- a. We are about life in this world/life now and how we challenge ourselves to live a better life and help others to do the same
- b. 3-fold mission of our church: (1) personal spiritual development (our small group ministry); (2) in the context of a caring community (social/fellowship, reaching out to others in their time of need); (3) minister to the hurting world, our social justice initiatives
- c. Our church's history in Rochester, our building, our ministers

### III. Introduction to video

- a. Long and rich history in Europe and America – we are made up of two separate “liberal religious” strands, with roots in Judeo-Christian tradition, but outside the mainstream (heretics)
- b. Unitarians: God is one, not 3; we follow the teachings of Jesus (among other prophets) but do not worship him
- c. Universalists: belief in universal salvation – we are all worthy to be loved
- d. Influenced and draw from sacred texts of other world religions, science, humanism, and literature – whatever inspires, comforts, and challenges us to live better in this world.

### IV. 10-minute video

### V. Next steps

\*Celebration of Life      \*Soul Matters      \*Drop-in Groups  
\*Friday Fun      \*Newsletter (\* by your name)      \*Life Now podcasts  
\*Our website and UUA website      \*UU201

### VI. Questions: people can leave if they need to get to 11:15 service

## UU 201 Notes

### A. Purpose/Agenda for Session

UU 201 is designed for those who are moving towards a commitment to membership in the church. Perhaps you are getting internally to the place where you feel “it’s your church.” Perhaps you’re wondering how you join a church where there is no formal creed or set of “revealed truths.”

In this session, you’ll hear about the process/logistics for becoming a member, our minister will talk to you about the rights and responsibilities of membership, and you’ll learn about some of the many opportunities to get involved with small groups here. After attending church as many Sundays as possible, joining a group is one of the best ways of starting to feel that you “belong” right away. Perhaps some of you have already become involved. Small groups might be our monthly “Soul Matters” groups to which over 300 of our members and friends belong, where we explore topics related to monthly sermon themes in groups of 10 or 12. Or it might mean becoming involved in the Caring Community Activities – visiting the sick, helping with receptions following memorial services, distributing flowers at Easter. There are many more opportunities in the most recent Volunteer/Service Opportunities brochure. Please let me know of your interest and I will be sure you get in touch with the right people.

### B. Group Introductions

Go around and ask the participants to introduce themselves:

- (1) what religious tradition did you grow up in?
- (2) What previous experience have you had with Unitarianism? What drew you to this church?
- (3) What needs do you have for you/your family that we can help with?
- (4) What interests/passions do you have that could contribute to the life of the church?

### C. Process for Joining

Please ask at any time if you have questions!

To join, you need to:

- (1) Sign an intent to join card and return to me or the office
- (2) Make a contribution of record.
- (3) Sign the membership book (4 Sundays throughout the year)  
Quarterly, we have a book signing of all those who have signed an intent-to-join card and made a payment of record. On book signing Sunday we have a ceremony inviting new members to come up in front of the congregation to affirm their commitment to membership.
- (4) Finally, we ask that you attend a pledge dessert at the minister's home for all those in your book-signing cohort. Our minister can tell you more about this

#### **D. Get Lunch**

#### **E. Minister's Presentation (separate notes below)**

#### **F. Closing/Next Steps**

- Any further questions?
- Hand out intent-to-join cards
- If you haven't been to UU 101, encourage to come, some basics of history and religious tradition of UUism
- Next book signing date
- I'll follow up to be sure you are connected according to your interests/needs

### **UU201 Minister's Talking Points**

- ❖ **Intro – the membership decision is an important one – we want to make sure that you have all the information you need to understand what it means to be a member of First Unitarian**
  
- ❖ **4 aspects of membership to address**
  - **church attendance – attending church on Sundays as often as possible is one way that members demonstrate commitment to the church**

- **ministry (this is finding your small group ministry/committing to a volunteer service)**
- **canvass (financial commitment)**
- **pastoral care (the church is here for you)**
  
- ❖ **public radio model (supported by the pledges of our members and friends)**
  
- ❖ **bargain (as many Christian churches ask for 10% of income)**
  
- ❖ **3-5 % guideline (to work toward, not necessarily to start out. As the church becomes more important in your life, we hope you will increase your financial commitment)**
  
- ❖ **pledge payment schedule/pro-rating (if they join and pledge at the next book signing in the fall, their 2007-08 pledge would be for 9 months)**
  
- ❖ **canvass dessert at minister's home**
  
- ❖ **RE/rites of passage (child dedication, coming of age, weddings, memorial services)**
  
- ❖ **Church governance**
  
- ❖ **Voting responsibilities (calling ministers, voting on budget, social justice grants, special issues that come up)**