Rev's Reflections

Adria, the chair of the worship committee, shares my love of words and penchant for wading through murky ideas toward more clarity. Lately we've been thinking about Article II, the "seven words" that may become the new covenant among UU congregations, replacing the Seven (or Eight) Principles. Six words are grouped in a circle around the seventh word, which is love.

I love a good metaphor. Metaphors bring new life and deeper understanding to abstract concepts that could otherwise stagnate. I especially love metaphors that can be illustrated visually, so with Adria's help I've been working on these seven words and how they relate to each other, jotting down ideas in colored marker on scraps of paper.

Right now, it's looking something like an atom, with three pairs of words on opposite sides of elongated ovals, contrasting and complementing each other. In the center is the energetic force that keeps it all from flying apart, and that force is love.

At least that's what it looks like right now. It could all change in two months. Or tomorrow. Who knows? Any one of you could say something to me that changes everything, and I think that's pretty amazing and wonderful. That's why, as we come to understand these seven words beyond the "definitions" provided by the Article II Commission, we need to be in conversation with each other.

Rev. Eric Cherry mentioned a couple weeks ago that we and Westminster UU — the congregation he serves — will be in conversation in the spring. We've scheduled those conversations for March 10 and April 14 after the service. One will be here, and one will be at Westminster in East Greenwich. Lunch will be served both times.

I hope you can join us to be part of an act of "metaphoraging."

In Peace,
Rev Denis