The following remarks were spoken at the Fellowship this past Sunday by Emily Beals, Membership Chair, on the occasion of our New Member Welcoming Ceremony.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the following new members into our Fellowship: Neva Anderson, Jeri Seibert, ZeeLinda Dissinger, Don Dissinger, Ida Domazlicky, Bruce Domazlicky, Bodhi Harbour, George Stevens.

I would like to share some thoughts about what it means to become a member of Unitarian Universalists, to more clearly understand what you are agreeing to value when you become a member of this denomination. I heard someone recently quip that UU's believe, 'BYOG'. Do you know what that means? It means, 'Bring your own God,' as in 'we don't really know what we believe, so anything goes.'

For some folks who need the certainty of clear unequivocal answers to life's questions, they're partly right in that UU's don't believe there is one truth. We do not believe that one creed fits all.

What we do believe is that there are many paths to seek understanding of the ultimately unanswerable questions that religions address and they have been developed over centuries: Taoism, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity, Agnosticism, Atheism to name but a few. To say that one is better than another is to speak out of arrogance and ignorance. To understand that each of us must seek our own truth and that there are many paths is to speak out of humility and wisdom. Unitarian Universalism holds the deep belief that what you believe is your sacred path and we as a congregation value and support your journey.

In this Fellowship we will hear sermons that go deeper into traditional Christianity than some may want to go and at other times we will hear a sermon that will declare that God, if there is a God, is unknowable and that the laws of physics governs the universe. (That one's coming up the end of April). It's a challenge to hear a sermon that goes the opposite direction of what you believe, to hold it all together as a community but guess what folks, that's who we are. That's what we do.

So let's remember where we come from, what we value, and dive deep into accepting each other in our complexity and diversity.