**Facilitator’s Script**

**Lighting the Chalice & Opening Reading *In Unison:***

*Love is the spirit of this church, the quest of truth its sacrament, service its prayer. This is our great covenant: To dwell together in peace, To seek the truth in love, and to help one another.*

**Adapted from #473 by James Vila Blake**

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Sentence Starters

**Say:** We began this series of discussion groups with Sentence Starters in our first meeting. Since then, we have learned more about one another. Let’s look at some more Sentence Starters. As the basket comes to you, draw out a sentence, tell us who you are, and complete it. If you pick one that you can't or don't want to answer, feel free to try a different one. Or just pass the basket. Pauses for thinking are fine. After completing your response, pass the basket on.

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Story

**Say:** We are changed by the community we join. Membership is about shaping the community, but also about shaping ourselves in the context of community. We'll explore that idea by sharing a story.

Many Unitarian Universalist congregations have small group ministries—groups that gather, often in members' homes, to deepen their spiritual connections and form community among the members. Or the congreagation is itself small. Small groups sometimes begin with a check-in, that is, a time when participants share what is going on in their lives.

This story is a fictional account, drawing on the stories heard by one minister from various people in different congregations about what their congregations mean to them.

*(Distribute the story and invite volunteers to read aloud*

*a paragraph or two at a time, until the story is completed.)*

*Lead a discussion, using these questions to guide you:*

* Which of the group members do you identify with the most? Why?
* How would you imagine yourself fitting into a group like this?
* What are you seeking from the congregation? Is there a particular aspect of your life that is bringing you here?

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Rights and Responsibilities

**Say:** We have talked about covenant as the basis of Unitarian Universalist congregations. We covenant, or promise, to respect and support one another despite our differences. Membership is an expression of covenant—an agreement to work together with others for the benefit of the congregation.

*(Distribute the handout. Ask volunteers to read the handout aloud, one bullet point at a time. After each bullet point, ask for questions or comments. You may wish to illustrate the points with your own examples.)*

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Signing the Membership Book

**Say:** Through this program, we have shared a lot about Unitarian Universalism and this congregation. Today, we talked specifically about the rights and responsibilities of membership in this congregation. You may or may not be ready to make that step. Membership is a real commitment, not to be taken lightly.

If you are ready at this point in your journey to join us as a member, we invite you to do so now. All that is required is signing the Membership Book to signify your willingness to share in our congregational covenant as a member. It’s not necessary to sign the Membership Book. Friends are always welcome at all of our activities and you are welcome to continue with the congregation at whatever level of involvement feels comfortable.

*(Have the book set up at a side table. Facilitators should stand near the book, so they can greet and welcome each signer individually.)*

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Hopes

*(Invite participants to choose a conversation partner and share their hopes for their involvement with the congregation. After three minutes, ring the bell or chime and say, "If the second person hasn't begun, please begin now." After another three minutes, bring the group back together. Invite participants to offer a word or phrase about the hopes they have shared.*

*Point out the stones on the table. Invite each participant to select a stone one at a time to take with them and to say something about what they take with them from this series of workshops. Participants may pass or take a stone without saying anything.)*

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**Closing & Extinguishing the Chalice**

*Reading #728 “Blessed Are Those” John Buerens Read Responsively.*