

Handout

Articulation Angles

Consider these helpful angles when articulating your faith:

- UUs are generally united about guiding principles, but very diverse on speculative matters. We try to unite more around behavior than belief. What matters most is not always *what* we believe (content), but *how* we live out whatever it is we believe.
- The word *religion* is from the Latin *religare*, meaning “to bind back or together,” as in “ligament.” Religion, therefore, emerges in shared values (whatever binds us together), not just shared beliefs.
- The word *worship* is from the Old English *weorth*, meaning “worth,” plus *scipe*, meaning “to shape.” Worship, therefore, refers to shaping what is of worth, as in friendship, ritual, community, etc.
- If asked, “What do you believe?” first clarify “you.” (No one can speak conclusively for Unitarian Universalism as a whole about belief issues.)
- UUs generally honor the mystery of life as a glorious reality. We happily celebrate that there is still more to learn about the inner and outer universe. We strive to be comfortable with ambiguity even as we seek ever greater clarity and awareness.
- We cultivate an open-hearted approach to what is new or strange to us. We are students and learners “from cradle to grave.”
- As Samuel Longfellow wrote, “Revelation is not sealed!” The universe is always unfolding anew. We grow from sharing our faith journeys.
- “I am a Unitarian because I believe that by whatever name we call the source of creation, it is ultimately one. I am a Universalist because I believe that at the heart of creation is the universal spirit of love.” (Barbara Wells)
- “A ‘free and responsible search for truth and meaning’ (our fourth Principle) means that we are *free* to believe what we *must*. We derive our authority from our authenticity.” (Jaco B. ten Hove)

What other angles can you think of?

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