

An Order for
The Reception of New Members
The Church of Universal Fellowship

A Touchstone . . . *

We trust in the song of the Cosmos,
the expression of our ground-of-being,
sentient, sensed,
called by myriad names,
and known as God.

We trust in the goodness and love of God,
seen, felt, and known,
in all of life's experiences.

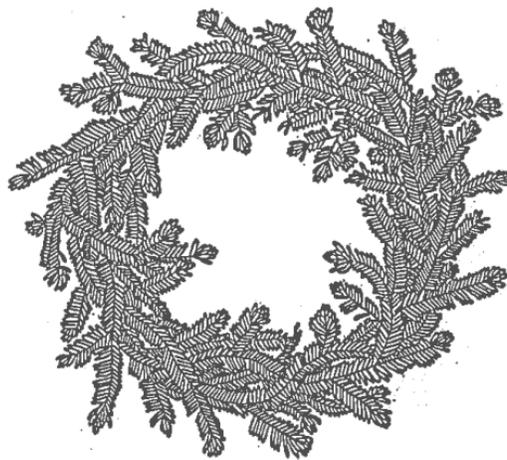
We trust in the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth,
able to guide us into a fuller relationship
with God and with the world.

We trust in wholeness and harmony as the intent of God,
already present and sufficient in resources to meet all needs,
as well as in graces, charities, and mercies
perceived throughout the ages
within all cultures, and across all boundaries.

We trust in this ineffable One, this Force, this Great Spirit, this God,
this mystery within us and within all things
as we strive together
to bring about Wisdom and justice here on earth.
Amen.

*The Reverend Philip Hastings
and The Study & Prayer Group of
The Church of Universal Fellowship
Fall 2010*

*This statement is not meant to be a creed. It is offered as a
"touchstone" for our spiritual journey.
The Random House Dictionary describes a touchstone as:
"a black siliceous stone used to test the purity of gold and silver by the
color of the streak produced on it by rubbing it with either metal"
and "a test or criterion for the qualities of something".



Words of Welcome

To the Candidates:

Leader:

Will you participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God, and enlisting in the work of this congregation as it serves the community and the world?

Candidates: We will.

To the Congregation:

Leader:

Members of the Church of Universal Fellowship, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love. Let us welcome and affirm our mutual ministry.

Congregation:

We give thanks for all that God has already given you, and we welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and our prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church Universal. God grant that together we may continue our growth in knowledge and love.

Irene von Hoffmann, Vice President, Board of Trustees:

Let us pray. May the God of all grace establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. Amen.

The Reverend Emily Taylor, Chair, Board of Deacons:

On behalf of the members of The Church of Universal Fellowship, we extend to you the hand of love, welcoming you into the company of this congregation.

Hymn (seated)

Creator God, Creating Still

62, vs 1, 2