

**\* The Call to Worship**

Brian McGill, *President, Board of Trustees*

Ed Brazee, *Chair, Board of Deacons*

A Rededication of  
The Church of Universal Fellowship 2019

Brian: In reverent remembrance of the vision and courage of the past; in deep concern for the present; and in lively faith that the children of God may be co-workers in the coming of God's realm on earth,

**All: We gather and with one voice: we rededicate this church.**

Ed: Praying we may serve God ever more effectively, as one people among God's many people around the world,

**All: We gather and with one voice: we rededicate this church.**

Brian: To the end we may continue to teach and inspire the young, to enlighten, guide, and challenge the adult, and to sustain and comfort the aged,

**All: We gather and with one voice: we rededicate this church.**

Ed: That we may strengthen the weak, uplift the fallen, seek and save the lost, and point the way of eternal life to be lived right now,

**All: We gather and with one voice: we rededicate this church.**

Brian: That this church may confirm and sanctify every vision of a better world and a better life; that it may faithfully spread light in darkness; that it may continue to be a welcoming home of the Spirit and a temple of God,

**All: We gather and with one voice: we rededicate this church.**

Ed: To the glory of God and in the service of humankind,

**All: We gather and with one voice: we rededicate this church.**

Brian: And that the fellowship of those who worship everywhere may be increased and strengthened,

**All: We gather and with one voice: we rededicate this church.**

Ed: That love and deep compassion may flourish and spread among ourselves, and among all people, and toward God,

**All: We gather and with one voice: we rededicate this church.**

Brian: That each of us may better learn to serve God with our heart and soul and mind and strength,

**All: We gather and with one voice: we rededicate this church.**

Ed: That through our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service, our faith in God becomes our lived reality,

**All: We gather and with one voice: we rededicate this church.**

Brian: Unto the worshiping community universal, which magnifies the relationships that make for peace, and which shall make of all sects, classes, nations, and races one human fellowship,

**All: We gather and with one voice: we rededicate ourselves and pledge the allegiance of our hands and our hearts. Amen.**

# The Reception of New Members

A Touchstone . . . \*

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

**We trust in the goodness and love of our Source,  
that can be seen, felt, and known,  
in all of life's experiences.**

**We trust the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth,  
wisdom that guides us into authentic life  
in union with our Source and the world.**

**We trust wholeness and harmony as the intent of our Source,  
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 this ineffable One, this Force, this Great Spirit, this God,  
this Mystery around and within us and all things  
as we strive together  
to bring about Wisdom and Justice here on earth. Amen.**

*The Reverend Philip M. Hastings, 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 New Members

*To the Candidates:*

L: Do you promise to 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 do.**

*To the Congregation:*

L: 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.**

**President 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.

**Chair 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.