

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Burton Carley is the minister of the UU church in Memphis. I once heard him describe the pastoral care office at the main hospital there. It has a big file rack on the wall, with folders for all the churches in town, including his.

The patient list in the UU folder has always seemed to include some names of patients not associated with his church. Calling on these unknowns, he has gotten reactions ranging from perplexity to outright hostility. Studying the list more closely at one point, he noticed with a sinking feeling that although the denomination of the patients from his church was listed as “Unitarian,” the UU folder was also the repository for patients bearing a jumble of descriptors such as “church unknown, none, no preference, affiliation unavailable,” or simply “undefined.”

There they go again, those undiscerning elephants of the world of religion – putting all of us down here in U-ville in that ignominious category sometimes called “other,” or worse yet, the “no religion religion.” Is that who we are? I don’t think so. Do you? Churches are known by their missions in the world. If we want ours to be known, we have to shout it out very loud and very clear. All of us – every last U in U-ville. Right? [shouts of “Right!!”]

Good. Now all we have to do is figure out what we want to shout. And that will require, of course, living in some big questions. So, as is our tradition, let us be about that again today. Come, let us worship together.