

FOUR CORNERS GAME DIVERSITY AND COMMONALITY

Now we're going to play a game or if games aren't your thing, then we're about to get some exercise. It's called Four Corners. Purpose is to show both the diversity of Unitarians and how much we actually have in common. It also shows us where we've been, where we're at now, and where we're headed on our spiritual journeys.

We'll begin with something familiar, something we discussed earlier today: our **RELIGIOUS ROOTS**. This is how it goes. I'm going to name four categories and assign one category to each of 4 corners... Listen to all four and go to whichever corner best reflects your religious roots.

In the first corner will be those who grew up without a church, 1. THE UNCHURCHED.

In the second corner, those who grew up FUNDAMENTALIST or conservative CHRISTIAN.

In the third corner, those who grew up MAINSTREAM or moderate CHRISTIAN or CATHOLIC.

In the fourth group, those who grew up in OTHER RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS: Unitarian, Jewish, Christian Science, Mormon, Buddhist, etc. You know who you are!

Okay. Let's go! Corner 1 – no church; Corner 2 – conservative Christian; Corner 3 – Catholic or mainstream Christian; Corner 4 – other religions.

Now that you're in your corners, pick a spokesperson and then take just a few minutes to discuss your **thoughts and feelings** about your religious roots. For example, are there aspects of your religious roots that you treasure or would you rather leave them all in the past? In a couple of minutes, I'll ring a bell. Then, let's hear from the spokesperson for each group. Summarize what was said or tell us something that would be interesting to the rest of us.

Ring Bell. Time's up! Okay, let's see what each group has to report about its **feelings** about their religious roots. Corner 1, ...then go around to the rest.

NOW THAT WE KNOW WHERE WE'VE ALL BEEN, LET'S SEE WHERE WE'RE AT TODAY...

Let's find out your **CURRENT THEOLOGY**.

I'll read off 4 choices. Remember to listen to all four categories before you move. Then pick a spokesperson, discuss why you chose where you are, and then we'll hear each group's brief summary of their views. Here we go!

- 1) Corner 1 is for those who hold a scientific/rational world view. This includes those who consider themselves atheists, but can also include those who believe in a higher power, but who are informed and inspired mainly by a scientific perspective.
- 2) Corner 2 is for those who have taken an eclectic approach to non-Christian world religions or who are a practitioner of one of them, such as Buddhism or Judaism.
- 3) Corner 3 is for those who consider themselves to be liberal Christians, or those who still feel most comfortable within the cultural context of our Christian heritage.
- 4) Corner 4 is for those who practice Earth-centered, natural, or pagan religions.

Ring bell. Okay, Corner 1 group? Continue...

Remark – appreciative comment about our diverse backgrounds; compliment their summaries, interesting points, and brevity.

NOW ON TO SUBJECT 3 ...**EXPLORATIONS**.

If you decide to join JUC and become a Unitarian, we have a mind-boggling assortment of programming to choose from. This church encourages everyone to be adventurous! I'm going to read off four different paths of **SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION**. We know that you will probably like to take classes which reflect your present perspective. but if you were to choose to go to a class offered in some other perspective, which might it be? Would you choose a class or activity to explore...

1) the results of **MODERN SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES** and how they can enhance our sense of the sacred and our sense of connection with the rest of the universe. For instance, a class will be taught late this winter on Science and the Sacred.

2) **SPIRITUAL PRACTICES** such as meditation, yoga, or liturgical dance
We offer all of these: Blue Mountain Meditation, hatha yoga, and opportunities for sacred dance in several groups and classes.

3) **LIBERAL STUDY of the WORLD'S RELIGIONS**

There have been several classes on Islam since 9/11 and a class on Buddhism will be offered this winter. We also offer classes on liberal interpretations of the Jewish and Christian Scripture.

3) **GODDESS TRADITIONS, EARTH CENTERED CEREMONIES,
NATIVE AMERICAN SPIRITUALITY**

Several Goddess classes are offered each year, solstice celebrations and drumming as well as gardening and birding!

Repeat choices. If you're interested in all of these choices, great! Just go to that corner which is outside of your present perspective and which you think you might want to take a class in just to see what it is about.

Ring bell. Get feedback. Remind them we have classes and activities in all these areas and many more!

REFLECTION: This game has shown us where we have all been, where we all are today, and various directions we all may go. We did this to show you what an **OPEN EXPERIENCE** it is to be a member of this church and this faith. Our promise to you is that no matter who you are or what you think, **you can BE YOURSELF with us. You can SAY WHAT YOU THINK and YOU WILL NOT BE JUDGED.** And rest assured there is **NO GUILT and NO "SIN"** here at JUC!

BUT DON'T EXPECT TO STAND STILL! We promise you that JUC will **challenge your thinking and stimulate your spiritual growth.** We hope you're as excited as we are to get started!

Thanks for your enthusiastic participation!