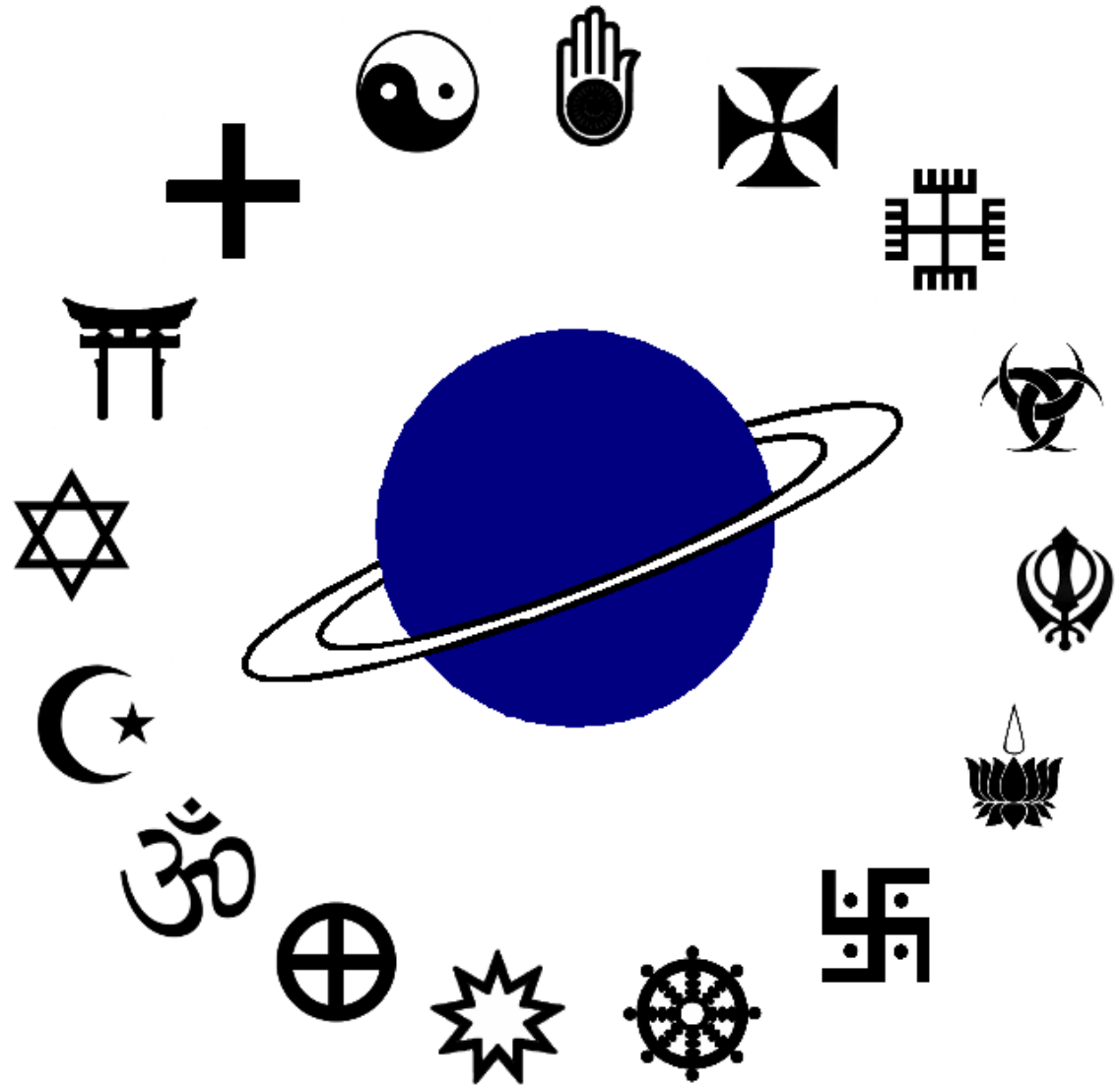






**covenant**

what do  
UUUs  
believe?



“covenant”





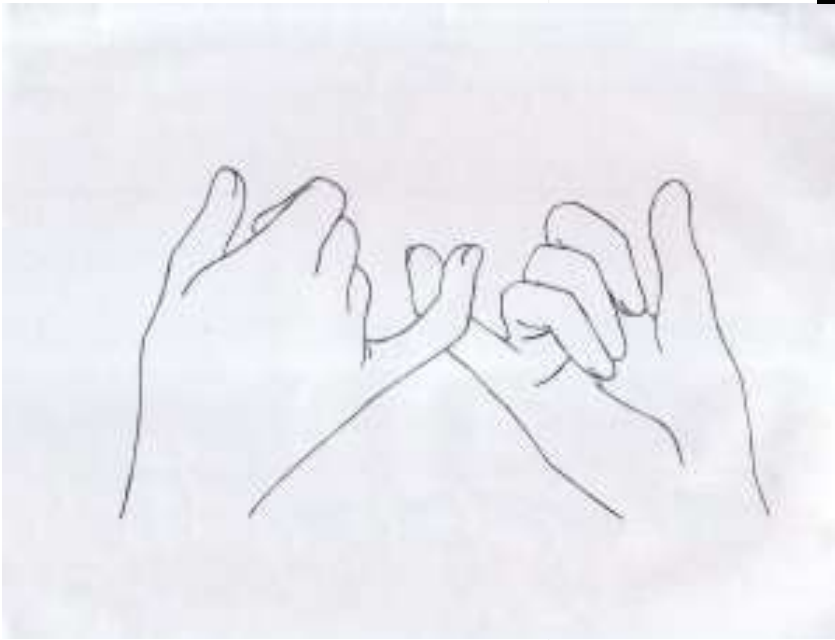
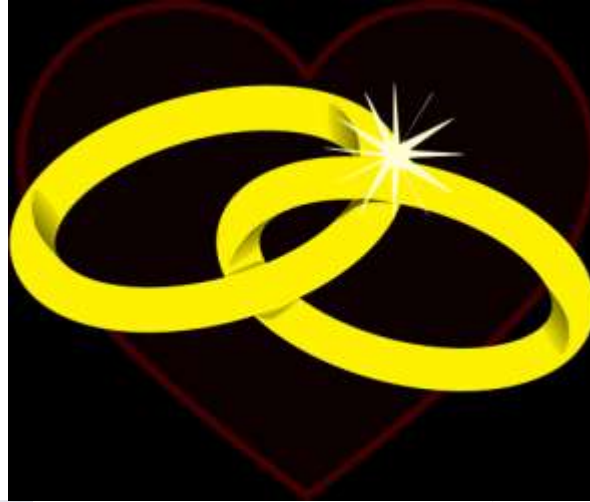
**covenant**

From Latin

*convenire*

to come together

covenant  
outside of  
church



**covenant  
(UU)**

**We are bound by covenant,  
each to each and each to all, by  
freely chosen and life-  
sustaining interdependence.**

-- Theologian Rebecca Parker quoted by Rev. Victoria E. Safford,  
*UU World*, Summer 2013 "Bound in Covenant."

**covenant**

**some history**

from the *Tapestry of Faith* curriculum

We pledge to walk together  
In the ways of truth and affection,  
As best we know them now  
Or may learn them in the days to come,  
That we and our children may be fulfilled  
And that we may speak to the world  
In words and actions  
Of peace and goodwill.



# 3 pillars

## Covenant

- *As opposed to Creed*

## Pluralism

- *As opposed to Fundamentalism*

## Living Faith

- *changeable*
- *adaptable*
- *“revelation is not sealed”*

**covenant**

*We are never  
finished*

**covenant**

- *Begins with the self*
- *Can be practiced only in community*



**covenant**

**uu**cp

Love is the spirit of this church  
And service its law.

This is our covenant:

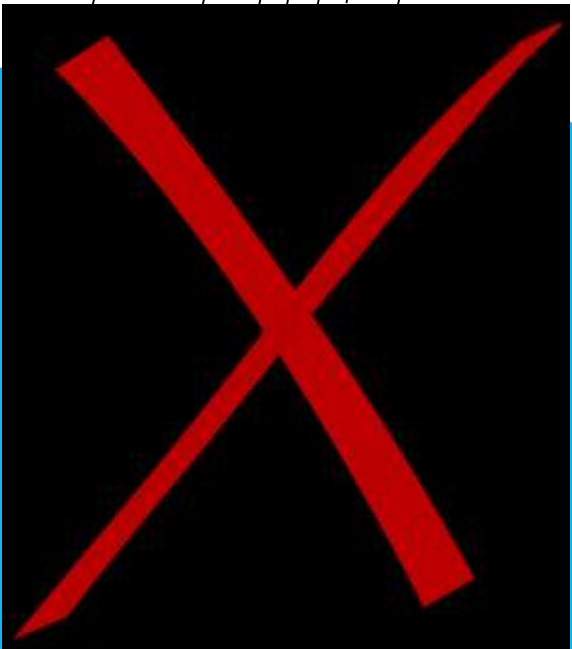
To dwell together in peace,  
To seek the truth in love,  
And to help one another.

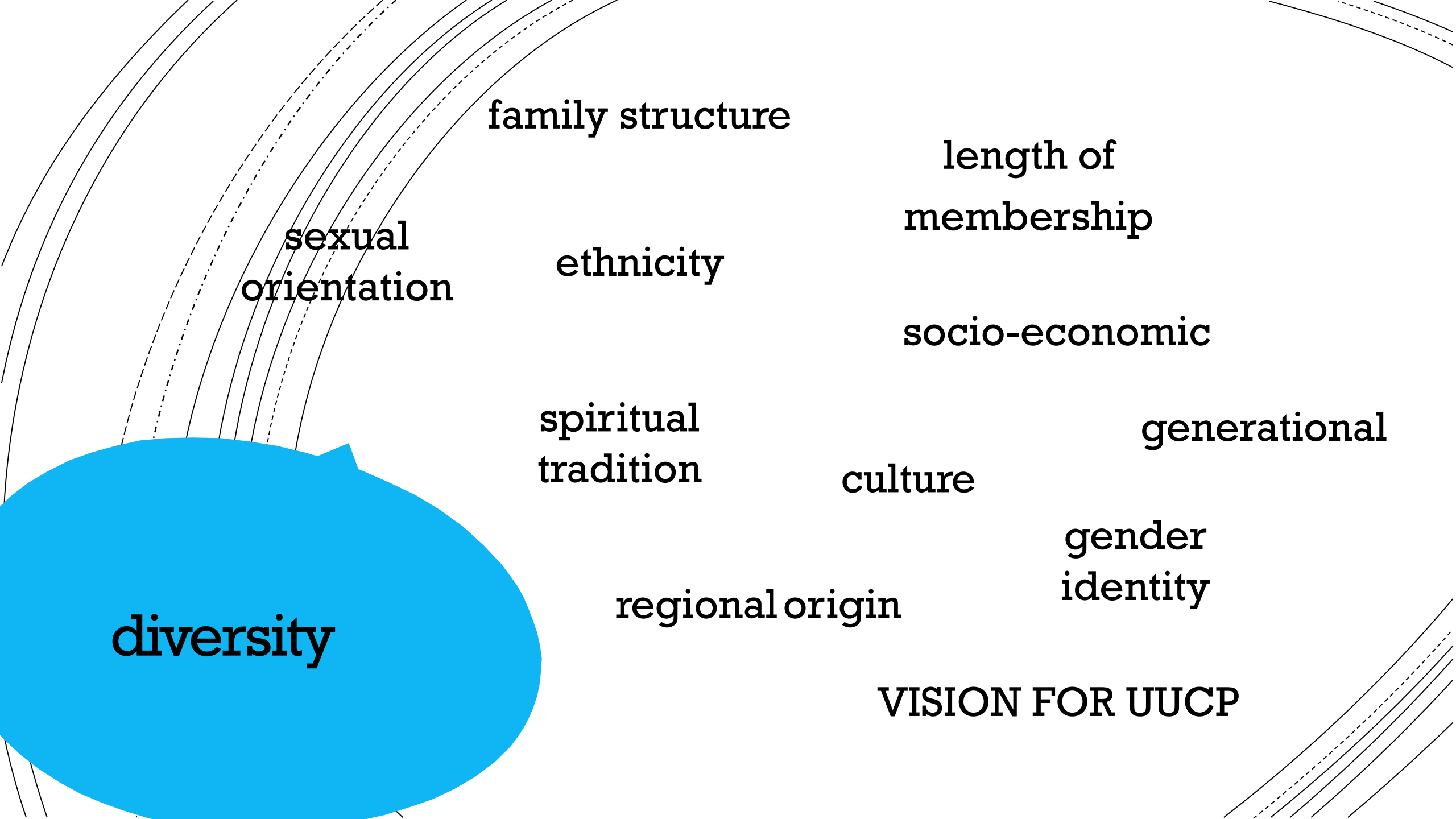
*- James Vila Blake, 1894*

What do UUs believe

**IN**

?





challenges

growth?

ministry teams?

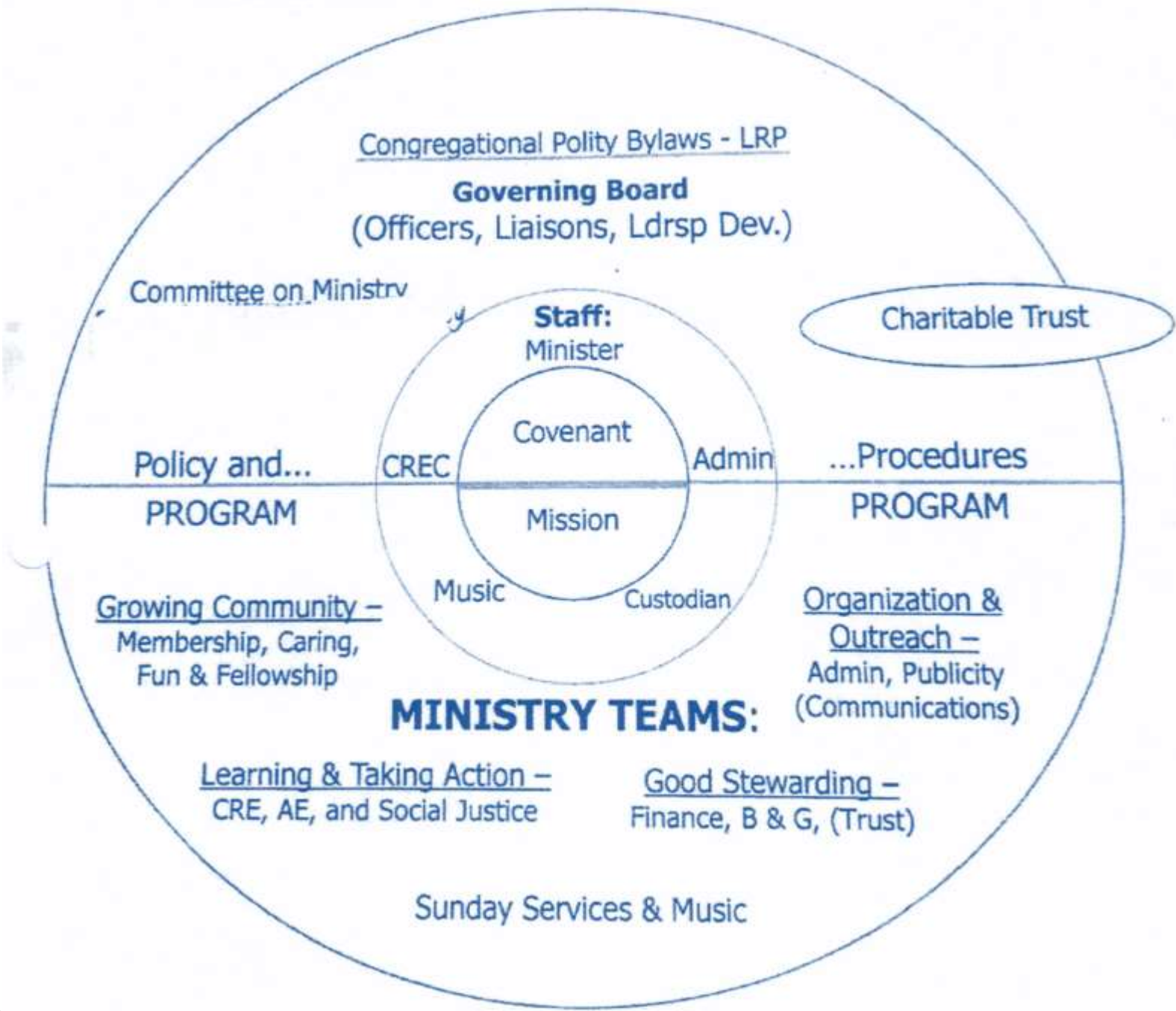
volunteerism?

ministry?

governance?

stewardship?

108 / ~65





# how covenant can help us

“...The flame is a symbol of truth and justice, of the inherent worth and dignity of every person. It is a beacon to guide our way.

“But our chalice is actually a combination of two symbols—the flame and the cup. The cup is a symbol of care and sustenance, the nourishment we offer each other in religious community. The cup is what holds the light, it’s where the flame is tended, it’s what we create when we reach out to each other in covenant.”



-Rev. Susan Frederick Gray  
“The cup is what holds the light.” *UU World, Fall 2019*



**dwell  
together in  
peace**

- **compassionate communication**
- **surrendering one's own agenda**
- **right relations**
- **resilience and restoreability of covenant**

Come, come, whoever you are.  
Wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving.  
It doesn't matter. Ours is not a caravan  
of despair. **Come, even if you have  
broken your vows a thousand times.**  
Come, yet again, come.

-- *Rumi*

**seek the  
truth in love**

- **come to the table.**
- **come back to the table.**
- **faithful dissent**
- **differing visions > radical resolutions**



# help one another

## care for one another

- Pastoral care
- Care for church and building
- Ask for help

## room to fail

- Try new things
- Support innovators
- All service is sacred

## we are not alone!

- UUA
- Leadership experiences
- “Free and independent” ≠ lonely



2018



1997



1987

