WELCOMING
VERSUS
OTHERING

BASIC INTERCULTURAL HOSPITALITY

SAY THIS	INSTEAD OF
Q: Hi, I haven't met you, my name is...	Q: Hi! You must be new.
Q: Welcome! A; Hi, I just moved here from Chicago. Q: I love Chicago. I'm from Portland. I moved here for a job. What brought you here?	Q: Where are you from? A: Chicago Q. No, I meant, where are you <really> from? Q: (keeps going until visitor claims a foreign ancestry)
Q: What a lovely necklace. Is there a story connected with it?	Q: Your hair is really cool. Can I touch it? (or worse, touch without asking)
Q: Is there any kind of group I can connect you to? We have a wide variety!	Q: Come meet our other transgender person!
Q: What lovely children! May I introduce you to our Director of Religious Education?	Q: They don't look like you--are they adopted? Are they your real children? Did you use a sperm donor?
Q: What did you think of the worship service? I loved the story.	Q: What college did/do you go to? What do you do for a living?
Q: Please let us know if there's anything we can do to make your visit better.	Q: I see you have a disability, here let me help you.

Ref: http://www.uua.org/documents/idbm/multicultural_welcome.pdf

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SOME MORE TIPS ON WELCOMING

Reflect on what calls you to be welcoming to all who enter your congregation. What faith value are you practicing?

Greet everyone who comes though the doorway, not just new people.

Enjoy the gifts found in inviting and listening.

Notice when you make an assumption and intentionally set that assumption aside.

Remember everyone has multiple identities and refrain from focusing on any one identity you notice or assume.

Ask open ended questions and respect people choosing not to answer.

Refrain from asking personal questions, including theology. People will reveal what they are ready to reveal.

Let the guest take the lead!

Start a conversation from a shared experience-like the morning's worship.

Find language that is inclusive including language that doesn't assume all children have a mother and a father or live with their parents, or everyone is either a man or a woman, etc.

Forgive yourself for any blunders or awkwardness. Apologize if needed and accept being human.

Help spread these practices-inviting, listening, rejecting assumptions-throughout the congregation.

This is just a step. There is always more ways we can become more welcoming and inclusive.

"In our hands is the power to craft a compelling narrative of extraordinary respect…of welcome and transformational community for our Unitarian Universalist present and future."
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