

**In The Sacred Space**  
**Closing Ritual to the "Pastoral Care from a Unitarian Universalist**  
**Perspective" January 2003 Intensive Course**

In the sacred space between I and thou, I and we

Complexity walks with ambiguity,

Speaking empathy, a communal language

That eases the pilgrimage of the self.

In this vast, uncharted wonder,

Trust is a road sign, some days blown slightly askew,

And stories stretch horizons as we tell our selves into being.

Yet who is asking the questions?

The voice of care or stern control?

A transitional God or a greater wholeness?

Who mapped THIS as deviance and THAT as proper detour,

Turned tributaries into dichotomies?

In the wind's tussle, resilience is a squat cactus on the road's side

That enables us to think as a river.

Push-pulled, propelled, we sense hope only a minim farther, and

the community -- the beloved-- we seek.

Thus we journey on, resonant with faith.

1/23/03