

Response from Daniel O' Connell

Mr. Ellis says: "we do not need to discover a denominational theology" and proposes instead that we focus on "the glue [of] a religious orientation, what we might call a mental posture, a spiritual tendency, a particular kind of religious appetite, a temperament." While I agree that our spiritual temperament is a good way to look at one of the things that holds UUs together, the necessity of theological self-definition--particularly to the 99% of the population who couldn't distinguish between a Unitarian church and a Unification church--remains an important task.

For more on this, and in a more conversational tone, I would direct JLR readers to the paper I gave in March at the UUMA Convocation, entitled "Unitarian Universalism: the Religion." The lectures can be found at <http://www.uuma.org/Convocation/birmingham%20lectures.html>.