

Are *you* a
**UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST?**



You may *also* be a
HUMANIST!

HUMANISTS
believe in **GOOD.**

THE AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION

provides a humanist perspective in strong support of separation of religion from government, preservation and restoration of the environment, protection of civil rights and liberties, and promotion of personal choice regarding introduction of new life, family structure, and death with dignity. Though humanists are not monolithic on every issue—this is a community that encourages tolerance and nurtures diversity—we directly challenge human rights violations and discrimination.



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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM is a liberal religious tradition that was formed from the merger of two denominations: Unitarianism and Universalism. The Universalist Church of America was founded in 1793 and the American Unitarian Association in 1825. After merging in 1961, the two formed the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations. Both denominations have long histories and have contributed important theological concepts that remain central to Unitarian Universalism but, most notably, Unitarian Universalism has evolved to be a non-creedal religion that welcomes people of all beliefs. Humanism became an influential part of the religion in the early 20th century and remains strong to this day.

Since the merger of the two denominations, Unitarian Universalism has built upon its dual heritage to provide a strong voice for social justice and liberal religion. Unitarian Universalists work in local, state, national, and international interfaith coalitions and partnerships to affirm its principles and values. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and the UU College of Social Justice are two examples of this work.

The UU Humanist Association (HUUmanists.org) is the principal organization representing humanists in the Unitarian Universalist Association. Since 1962, it has worked to attain the Humanist Manifesto's vision and goals through its educational, advocacy, and action programs.

Unitarian Universalists were instrumental in writing all three of the Humanist Manifestos and in the founding of the American Humanist Association. Lester Mondale (1904–2003), a Unitarian Universalist minister, was the only person to sign all three Manifestos. Edwin H. Wilson was the executive director for AHA in its early years and was co-founder of the UU Humanists with Mondale.

HUMANISM is a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernatural beliefs, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity.

“Humanism is really the attempt to conserve all the human values that humanity in its age-long struggle has built up, and in addition create such new values as will add to the significance of life on this planet.”

—**John H. Dietrich**, highly influential Unitarian Minister and author of several books including *The Religion of Humanity*

“What are human values? They are the values of the modern world. We hold Humanist values whenever we put human welfare and this-worldly concerns first.”

—**L. C. Paine**, author of *Reinventing Religion: Introducing a Humanist Religion*

“During the years of my formal education, I particularly valued that Humanism honors reason and encourages integrity.... it invited me to think for myself, to explore, challenge, and doubt; to approach the important questions of life with an openness to new ideas and different perspectives; and then to test these ideas against reality....”

—**Reverend Sarah Oelberg**, Minister of the Nora Church Unitarian Universalist in Hanska, Minnesota and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Makato

“With the plethora of information that has inundated us today, we need critical thinking skills to sort through this mass of material to decide what is important and useful.... Critical thinking is needed to keep us afloat in the waves of truth claims coming to our shores.”

—**Carol Wintermute**, former Co-Dean of the Humanist Institute (now known as the AHA Center for Education), and former Director of Religious Education at the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis

But *how* can I be a **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST** *and* a **HUMANIST**?

We can be both Unitarian Universalists and humanists when we stand together, on the same side, in support of our shared common values. Unitarian Universalists have a program called “Standing on the Side of Love” whose intent is “to oppose oppression in its many forms and counter fear with love.” The campaign grew out of the Unitarian Universalist community’s response to a shooting at a UU congregation in Knoxville. They write, “Since then, we have stood on the side of love with immigrants, same-sex couples, transgender people, American Muslims, people of color, and other members of our faith and our wider communities who face oppression—all working together for more justice and more love.”

“I believe that ‘happy Humanism’ is a part of the faith position of almost all Unitarians and Universalists. It is not alien to any of us. We are all covenanted to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of every person. We have faith in the possibility of improving human life, and see the power for change in humanity itself. We see the human race as essentially one people. And we are committed to truth-seeking and truth-speaking.”

—**Reverend Horton**, Minister of the Unitarian Fellowship of Kelowna, British Columbia

There is an old union song written in the early 1930s called “Which Side Are You On?” that moves us to ask “*Which side are we on?*” Clearly, Unitarian Universalists and humanists are on the same side.

The key words in the seven Unitarian Universalist principles are: worth and dignity; equity and compassion; acceptance of one another; search for truth; the democratic process; peace, liberty, and justice for all; respect. The key words in “A Humanist Code of Ethics” (compiled by the Humanist Association of Northern Ireland) are: think for yourself; respect truth and reason; respect life; be open and honest; be loving and kind; help the weak and needy.

While we may not be a match made in “heaven,” we surely are a close match nonetheless.

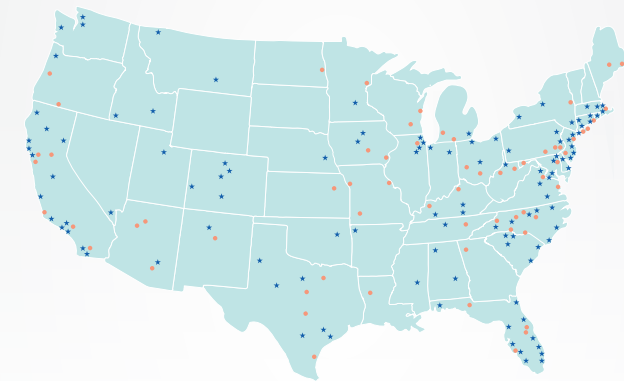
See more at www.americanhumanist.org/paths

Be a part of the *growing* **HUMANIST MOVEMENT!**

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

Membership: New members receive a free book about humanism. All members receive voting privileges, the *Humanist* magazine, and discounts on AHA conferences, seminars, books, literature, and more!

Local Communities: Start or join a local AHA Chapter or Affiliate to connect with humanists in your area and build the humanist community.



Local AHA communities: ★ Chapter ● Affiliate

Education: Enjoy our Center for Education’s innovative online and in-person resources designed for individuals, professionals, and groups across the humanist spectrum.

Advocacy: Help us protect the separation of church and state and advocate for social justice and universal human rights.

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