

Stewardship Moment #2

Let's face it. We've been saddled with an awkward name. **Unitarian Universalism** is a lot of syllables, and at a glance those words don't mean much to the average person.

We descend from two ancient Christian heresies. Our theological roots stretch back to people who believed that an Omnipotent God sent his fully human – yet fully divine – son to save humanity from eternity in hell. However, the **Unitarians** rejected the Christian doctrine of the Trinity. Rather, they believed that Jesus was a great prophet and teacher, but NOT divine... and NOT the son of God. Similarly, the **Universalists** rejected the Christian doctrine of predestination. Rather, they believed that a good God wouldn't damn anyone to hell, especially not before the world was even created.

Few people today, however, really care to discuss or debate ancient theological heresies. We must take the concepts – Unitarian... and Universalist... and make them relevant to our century. Here's how that works.

First, as Unitarians, we believe that we **humans all emerge from the same source**, whatever that may be. The human race forms a single unit of beings who all share common history.

Second, as Universalists, we believe that we **humans all share the same universal destiny**, whatever that may be.

Third, those two beliefs lead us to the conclusion that any **reward** for good deeds, and any **punishment** for bad deeds must happen in **THIS** life, if they are to happen at all.

So how does that tie in to **Stewardship**? Very simple. The work and mission of our movement and congregation – **the good deeds that we would hope to do** – center around concepts like Social Justice, Human Rights, and basic human survival and dignity. Every day, in small but meaningful ways, our members strive to move the markers on important social, political, and pragmatic concerns that impact people right here in Omaha, in the state of Nebraska, and in our nation and world.

We do this with the solid support of each other, our leadership, and our staff. We take the things we learn here, and the inspiration we receive here, and we use that background to influence our co-workers, we influence our neighbors, we influence our political process, and we help our fellow humans. Our efforts would be far less effective without the foundation we receive here at Second Unitarian. It falls to us, then, to support the survival, and the thriving of this organism. **We** have the **privilege of investing in that struggle**, and our good deeds will be rewarded!