

Stewardship Moment #3 – Unitarian Universalism: Our Heritage and Our Path

Unitarian Universalism has a rich heritage, especially here in the United States. While the UU movement does not currently boast large numbers, our roots lie deep in American history. Three of the first five presidents of the U.S. were Unitarian, including Thomas Jefferson, who reportedly thought the U.S. would soon become a majority-Unitarian nation. Our theology and our perspectives influenced the men and women who founded our nation and built our Capitol.

Since that time, however, changes have happened. In the last hundred years, both the Unitarians and the Universalists ceased thinking of themselves as Christian groups. They began to develop similar beliefs, and merged into one organization in 1961.

While that may seem like ancient history to younger people in the room, it's really a recent development. Mature religions like Christianity took hundreds of years to build their foundations and begin to define themselves. So, in church history terms, that makes us mere adolescents. The fact that we sometimes struggle to articulate who we are, and what we stand for – and that we struggle to agree on a great many things – is to be expected.

What this means for us here at Second Unitarian Church is that these are exciting times. We have the privilege of witnessing and participating in the “early days” of the Unitarian Universalist movement. We are, through our activity, helping to forge a voice for liberal post-Christian religion in America and the world.

We are putting the foundation blocks into place, and our perspectives and priorities are shaping the look, the feel, and the aroma of a new religion. Ours is a religion that looks beyond the belief-centered voices of the past, and reaches out to all humanity – especially the underprivileged and downtrodden – with an offer of a covenant-centered community.

This youthful effort seeks to unite all humans as caretakers and champions of our planet, our society, and our governments. We are setting out to accomplish something truly unique and important. Our support of Second Unitarian Church, and of Unitarian Universalism, couldn't come at a more opportune moment. Let us resolve to walk forward – boldly – into the future.