

## **WHY JOIN FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH?**

Remember the reasons you joined this church? I walked into this sanctuary a few months after my husband died, knowing that I needed to be in the company of people with whom I shared commonality: a generosity toward other people regardless of their beliefs or ethnicity, a respect for fairness to all disadvantaged people, and a skepticism of any political or religious dogma. I also believed I would share with this community, a trust in the intelligence of human beings in their search for more truth, honesty, generosity, and beauty in human life.

Though I had strong relationships with my friends and small family and a career I found satisfying and challenging, I knew I needed a larger village without having to build it one person at a time.

I found it to be a place where smart people can disagree with passion about God, about political views, about religion, about atheism and about the nature of truth. It can be a place where good will can pervade the most fundamental of disagreements and where we try the best we can to avoid getting too self righteous about our own perspective. Though we are not always able to achieve such standards, we challenge ourselves in those directions.

You may have joined to find the support of a community, the broader support of religious education for your children that encourages questions and doubts, the experience of a spirituality that is based on principles not dogma, the broadening of your own intellectual life, and the myriad of other motivations that bring people more into connection with each other. Maybe we feel a loneliness for something larger and more generous than our individual lives can offer.

We are on the launching pad of expansion here and we are looking at how to pave the road to membership for people who choose to be in our company. We are developing a brochure to answer questions about the steps involved to become a member. Did you know that we have steps? That we are forming a path? That we have expectations that are clear and specific about membership? I bet you thought we just had folks sign the book? And then announced it? That is changing. Talk to the Membership Team. Ask about the Four P's. Ask about the Path to Membership. Ask about what is up with UU and You these days. Stay tuned.

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