



## **5 Facts to Know About: Unitarian Universalism**

1. Unitarian Universalism (UU for short) is a liberal, non-creedal religious movement that welcomes pluralism and diversity in its members' beliefs and practices, embracing diverse teachings from Eastern and Western religions and philosophies. Unitarian Universalism has about 200,000 adherents in the United States.
2. Unitarian Universalism was established in 1961 from the merger of the Universalist Church of America (founded in 1793), and the American Unitarian Association (founded in 1825). The merger resulted in the formation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.
3. Although Unitarian-Universalists do not have a common creed or doctrine, they do share seven principles that are viewed as the guide for life, values and morality. Principles include affirmation of inherent worth and dignity of every person, promotion of justice, equality and compassion, and a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. The name refers to the unity, i.e. oneness of God. "Universalism" is the belief that God will save everyone and no one will suffer eternal punishment.
4. Because Unitarian Universalism has its roots in Protestant Christianity, the Bible remains an important sacred text for many. Unitarian Universalists, however, also turn to texts from other traditions and cultures around the world for wisdom and spiritual insights. Central to their understanding of scripture and sacred texts is that each text must be understood to be a product of a particular time and place.
5. Well known Unitarians, Universalists and Unitarian Universalists include President John Adams, Louisa May Alcott, Clara Barton, E.E. Cummings, Ralph Waldo Emerson, President Millard Fillmore, Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. and Frank Lloyd Wright.

(Over)

Learn more at:

<https://www.uua.org/beliefs>

[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/marilyn-sewell/unitarian-universalist-theology\\_b\\_870528.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/marilyn-sewell/unitarian-universalist-theology_b_870528.html)

<http://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/2001/06/what-unitarian-universalists-believe.aspx>

*These five points are not meant to be comprehensive or authoritative. We hope they will encourage you to explore this tradition more deeply and seek out members of this community to learn about their beliefs in action. It is our firm belief that in understanding our differences we will better understand our common humanity.*

11/2017