

Unitarian Universalist Association

Unitarian Universalism (UU) is a liberal religious movement that emphasizes the inherent worth and dignity of every person, the importance of reason and conscience, and the search for truth and meaning.

More info: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/unitarianism/history/history.shtml>

More info: <https://sedonauu.org/wordpress/news/blog/how-many-unitarians-are-there/>

- **Roots:** Unitarianism and Universalism have distinct origins. Unitarianism emerged in the 16th century, rejecting the doctrine of the Trinity. Universalism, also with 16th-century roots, emphasized the eventual salvation of all souls.
- **Convergence:** In the 19th and 20th centuries, these two movements gradually converged, culminating in the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America in 1961, forming the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

Core Beliefs:

- **Seven Principles:** UU is guided by seven principles that emphasize the inherent worth and dignity of every person, justice, equity, and compassion in human relations, the interdependent web of all existence, the right to conscience and the use of the intellect and spirit to understand the world, the goal of a world community that will work to overcome injustice, and the importance of respect for the integrity and dignity of every individual.
- **Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning:** UU encourages individuals to engage in their own spiritual journeys and form their own beliefs.
- **Diversity of Beliefs:** UU congregations are characterized by a wide range of beliefs and theological perspectives.

More info: <https://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe>

Practices and Rituals:

- **Worship Services:** Services vary widely, often featuring music, readings, sermons, and discussions.
- **Social Justice:** UU congregations are actively engaged in social justice work, addressing issues such as poverty, homelessness, environmental protection, and racial equality.
- **Religious Education:** UU places a strong emphasis on religious education for all ages.
- **Rites of Passage:** UU offers a variety of rites of passage, such as coming-of-age ceremonies and commitment ceremonies.

Places of Worship:

- **Congregations:** UU congregations are typically called "churches," "fellowships," or "societies." They are often located in diverse urban and suburban areas.

Leadership Structure:

- **Congregational Autonomy:** Each congregation is autonomous and self-governing.
- **UUA:** The UUA provides support and resources to local congregations, but does not dictate doctrine or policy.
- **Ministers:** UU ministers are trained in theology, pastoral care, and social justice.

Main Symbols:

- **The Chalice and Flaming Sword:** A symbol representing both the spiritual and the intellectual dimensions of UU.
- **The Open Circle:** A symbol of inclusivity and the ongoing search for truth and meaning.