

**Unitarian Universalism**

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**Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations**

**History of Unitarian Universalism**

Our faith tradition is diverse and inclusive. We grew from the union of two radical Christian traditions: the Universalists, who organized in 1793, and the Unitarians, who organized in 1825. They consolidated into the UUA in 1961.

Both groups trace their roots in North America to the early Massachusetts settlers and to the founders of the Republic. Overseas, their heritages reach back centuries to pioneers in England, Poland, and Transylvania.

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion with Jewish-Christian roots. It has no creed. It affirms the worth of human beings, advocates freedom of belief and the search for advancing truth, and provides a warm, open, supportive community for people who believe that ethical living is the supreme witness of religion.

**Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations**

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is a religious organization. Our member congregations covenant to affirm and promote seven Principles including "the inherent worth and dignity of every person."

Each of the 1,100+ congregations in the United States and beyond are democratic in polity and operation; they govern themselves. They unite in the Association to provide services that individual congregations cannot provide for themselves. Each congregation is associated with one of the UUA's districts and regions.

The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions and implement its principles.

The UUA is governed by a Board of Trustees who are elected by delegates to the General Assembly. The General Assembly is the annual business meeting of the denomination, held in various parts of the U.S.

An elected moderator presides at the General Assembly and at meetings of the Board of Trustees, and represents the Association on special occasions. A financial advisor, elected by the General Assembly, also sits on the Board. An elected president, an appointed chief operating officer, a treasurer, and nine others form the leadership council which manages the day-to-day business of the Association.