

WHY ARE YOU SO DEDICATED TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM ?

An inquiry hoping to help improve the odds for more such people! — *Selected responses:*

WHAT IS IT ABOUT YOUR LOCAL INVOLVEMENT THAT INSPIRES YOU AS A VOLUNTEER?

<i>Volunteering builds and expresses gratitude</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteering helps me take ownership of the congregation • Giving back to the church—gratitude • My work makes a difference • Love of the people in the congregation • Others accept and rely on me • Working with my friends •
<i>Spiritual connection</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep sense of connection by working on anti-racism, anti-oppression • Putting principles into action • Spiritual fulfillment by working on important issues • Letting God be seen through our hearts and hands •
<i>Sharing faith</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting our faith by working within a congregation •

WHAT INSPIRES YOU ABOUT THE LARGER UU MOVEMENT?

<i>Celebrating our differences</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The honest search and acceptance of differences • All the variety of members' insights and beliefs • We don't always agree but there is generally a great deal of respect either way and so we find parallels in our problems and work together to solves those, through our differences • Personal quests and acceptance of diversity is what appeals • Religion is a human creation and therefore how one practices one's faith is truly a free choice •
<i>Inspiration from our leaders and each other</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing UU leaders at General Assemblies (GA) • The GA's inspirational leadership on national issues • Feeling the energy when so many UUs come together at events •
<i>Part of an ethical community</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being in a movement that is doing the right thing in the world • Our stands on the environment; inclusiveness; commitment to justice and peace • I want to be part of and promote a liberal religious voice in my community and our country •

More of

WHAT INSPIRES YOU ABOUT THE LARGER UU MOVEMENT?

<p><i>Social justice is our spiritual journey</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UUA & JPD have taken on the tough social issues of the day • These actions grow out of our principles; pursuing them makes this a spiritual journey • The movement as a whole addressing issues of social justice • The potential to make changes to better individual lives, our community, our nation, our world • Inspired by holding up higher ideals as a denomination; taking a public stance • Letting our community [on a global scale] see that God is present through our hearts and hands. •
<p><i>Enriched by women's movement</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Women and Religion movement since 1980 for promoting use of consensus method for decision-making (non patriarchal) •
<p><i>A statement of faith</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The larger UU church is very important to me because UUism allows me to be both a thinking person and a spiritual being • Being UU requires me to fully engage my reason and intellect, but I am also strongly aware of our human connections, and I am moved to try to live our grand ideals in my everyday interactions • Being a UU is an opportunity to actually live the principles and values I believe in. This brings us into the world of pain, suffering, and injustice, as well as joy and transcendence • Our seven UU principles are almost all concerned with relationship, our relationship with other people and with the universe • I cannot withdraw and be religious alone; I have to be actively in community with others • I can only be ethical as I am ethically involved with other human beings • Respect, justice, caring, the interdependent web—all these have reality only in relationships • For me, Unitarian Universalism combines the realms of spirit and mind through action • By doing something, even when it seems inadequate, my ideals are grounded in some reality of effort, and I feel connected. •
<p><i>We are thinking and caring</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing that thinking, smart people are really the majority and we care • Freedom, thinking; true concern for others in this world •