

## **HANDOUT: UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM FACT SHEET**

**Founded/Created:** Two Christian denominations with religious traditions dating back 2,000 years to early Christianity consolidated in 1961 to form the Unitarian Universalist Association.

In the United States, Unitarian thought arose within established churches in the late 1700s; the American Unitarian Association founded in 1825. Universalist thought arose in opposition to Calvinism in the 1700s; a regional group (the New England convention) organized and adopted a profession of beliefs in 1803.

**Adherents:** 800,000 worldwide

**Ranking:** Approximately 20th

**Sources of Religious Authority:** There are six named Sources of religious authority: personal experience; words and deeds of prophetic people; wisdom from the world's religions; teachings from Jewish and Christian scripture; reason and the teachings of science; the natural world.

**Prophets:** Many Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists have contributed their prophetic voices to the shaping of their faith tradition and to issues facing the broader community and world.

**Symbol:** Flaming chalice

**Terms and Fundamental Precepts:**

*Human beings*

Every human being has worth and dignity. All people are deserving of love and compassion.

*God*

Unitarian Universalists have many different ideas about God. Some believe in God and others do not. Some use words like Nature, Love, Humanity, or Spirit of Life to name a force greater than themselves.

*Truth*

Truth is revealed in many different ways and there is always more truth to be found. Every person is responsible for seeking truth and meaning in life and for tending to their own spiritual journey.

### *Community*

We are all connected to one another. Unitarian Universalists strive to build beloved communities of peace and justice in congregations and in the world.

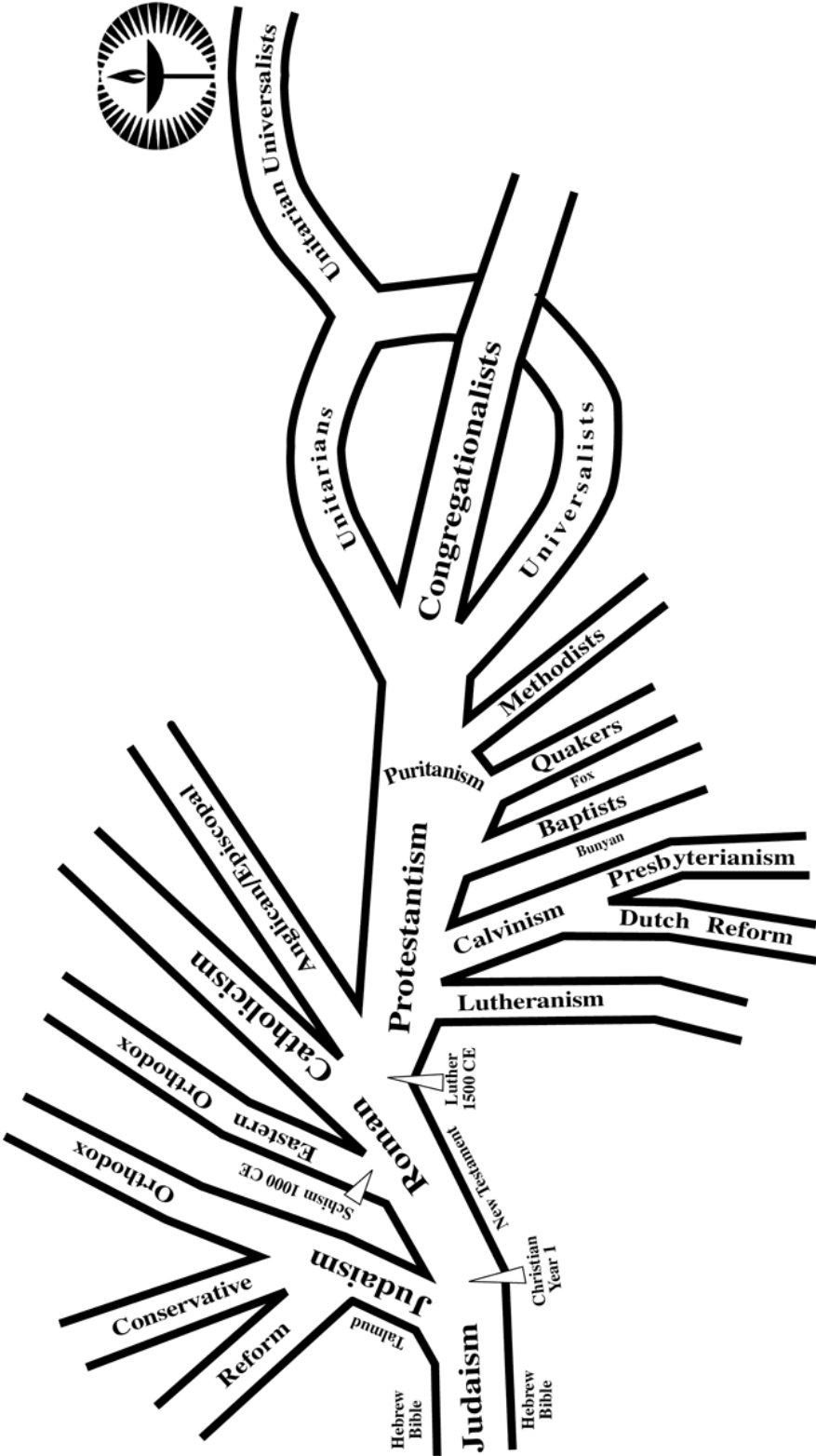
### *Nature*

We are part of the natural world. Our actions and choices should support the well being of all life that shares the interdependent web of life on earth.

### *Action*

Actions matter far more than belief. As Unitarian Thomas Jefferson said, "... it is in our lives and not from our words that our religion must be judged."

# HANDOUT: SOURCE RELIGIONS OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM



## **HANDOUT: THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION**

There are seven Principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

## **HANDOUT: FAMOUS UNITARIANS, UNIVERSALISTS, AND UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS**

James Luther Adams, John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Margot Adler, Amos Bronson Alcott, Louisa May Alcott, Horatio Alger, Jr., Steve Allen, Susan B. Anthony, Arius (256-336 CE), Roger Nash Baldwin, Adin Ballou, Hosea Ballou, P.T. Barnum, Bela Bartok, Clara Barton, Alexander Graham Bell, Henry Bergh, Tim Berners-Lee, Ray Bradbury, Andre Braugher, Antoinette Brown (Blackwell), Olympia Brown, Diahann Carroll, Alice Cary, Phoebe Cary, William Ellery Channing, Lydia Maria Child, e e cummings, Nathaniel Currier, Charles Darwin, George de Benneville, Charles Dickens, Dorothea Dix, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Sophia Fahs, Fannie Farmer, Millard Fillmore, Robert Fulghum, Buckminster Fuller, Margaret Fuller, Elizabeth Gaskell, Horace Greeley, Edvard Grieg, Nina Grieg, Henry Hampton, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Samuel Hoar, Edith Holden, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., Julia Ward Howe, Thomas Starr King, Lewis Howard Latimer, Viola Liuzzo, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Horace Mann, Herman Melville, Maria Mitchell, Samuel F. B. Morse, John Murray, Isaac Newton, Florence Nightingale, Keith Olbermann, Theodore Parker, Linus Pauling, Beatrix Potter, Joseph Priestley, Christopher Reeve, Paul Revere, Malvina Reynolds, Ram Mohun Roy, Benjamin Rush, Albert Schweitzer, Pete Seeger, Michael Servetus, Rod Serling, Adlai Stevenson II, Lucy Stone, Emily Stowe, William Howard Taft, Henry David Thoreau, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., Mary Augusta Ward, Josiah Wedgwood, Mary Wollstonecraft, Frank Lloyd Wright, N.C. Wyeth, Whitney M. Young, Jr.