

FIRST UNITARIAN
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY
BROOKLYN
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Transforming Lives

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(Member since October 9, 2016)



Five years ago, I entered this church for the first time. I arrived 10 minutes early, dressed in my Sunday best, and found a seat in the back pew. I took a few deep breaths. I tried to project calm but I was nervous. I had not been to church in a very long time.

I was raised in an ultra-conservative religion that some might call a cult. My childhood was spent on communes and in congregations. Church felt like home.

But, I left the faith of my youth for reasons of principle and practice. My birth religion mobilized around “family values” and politically opposed efforts to advance equity and justice, especially for women and LGBTQ people.

At a certain point, I no longer wanted to stand on that side. My progressive political identity emerged at the same time that my religious identity retreated, so I took them to be mutually exclusive. Whether or not this was true, I felt there needed to be a tradeoff and I chose political sentience.

And yet, I felt a deep and persistent yearning for spiritual community. For a space where I had permission to stop doing and to just be. Where I could re-center around my values alongside people who shared them. From the first time I sat in these pews, I knew I found something quite special here.

And, to my surprise, I also found a socially active congregation, where in song, scripture, and sermon, we bravely confront salient political issues from a place that is honest and hopeful, realistic and still really optimistic. Here, I found a new kind of spiritual home, one that does not require tradeoffs because it makes room for all people. One that, time and again, chooses to stand on the side of love, justice, and compassion.

I feel the words of the inimitable Audre Lord best capture what this congregation means to me: “I was not meant to be alone and without you who understand.”

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