

FIRST UNITARIAN
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY
BR  **KLYN**
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION



Parrish

(Member since January 2017)

and

David

(Member since February 2019)

Parrish: It took a year of David and I hooking up before I asked him if he wanted to check out my church, the one I would slip out early on Sunday mornings to attend. When I asked, his response was simple:

David: Oh, I don't believe in Jesus.

Parrish: Oh, I haven't explained my church properly.

David: Parrish did explain and invited me again a few months later, promising that the sermon was going to be about sex.

Parrish: David and I both grew up Catholic, so the idea that LGBTQ inclusive sex-positivity could be preached from the pulpit would have been inconceivable for us just a few years ago. I had been teaching Our Whole Lives (OWL), which is our church's progressive and comprehensive sexual education program, to 8th graders all year and wanted David to learn more about this part of my life.

David: I was truly not prepared for what I would experience. I panicked hearing the organ, but then I heard our senior minister, Rev. Ana say the words "Whoever you are, whomever you love, you are welcome here." It broke through walls I didn't know I had between myself and faith. That first service was emotional for me. I had never before experienced a religion that was so inclusive of every part of who I am; that celebrated my difference and welcomed me in. After the service, we went to the monthly young adult brunch and I found myself telling everyone "I'll see you next week."

Parrish: David attended weekly with me from that moment on. It was different for me, to have a person with me during the service, but our experiences began to shape our relationship. We grew deeper as we discussed sermons, questioned what we believed, and took steps to strengthen our connection to the community around us, both at church and in the wider world, or at least Brooklyn.

David: We became the couple that would attend protests together, host potlucks and game nights, help each other write sermons, and we even organized a Latin Dance Party that doubled as a fundraiser for a local LGBTQ homeless shelter and gave me a chance to teach a bunch of white people how to dance.

Parrish: We are different people because we attend this church together.

First Unitarian has changed our lives. Working together, we can change the world.

June 26, 2019