

Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane Congregational Profile

Giving an accurate profile of our congregation seems like an impossible task. How could one possibly condense a few hundred points of view, priorities, and opinions into a few paragraphs?

We are UUs, after all, so we can be awfully difficult to pin down! But, in truth, you already know us, for our story is your story.

Think back on a time when the dark clouds of love gone awry covered your world, darkening its horizon. Remember those feelings of doubt and bewilderment? It seemed as though you might not recover, but somehow you persevered. You learned that you are stronger and more resilient than you gave yourself credit for. You emerged from the abyss wiser, more cautious to be sure, but secure in the knowledge that the need for companionship and love outweighed the fear of being hurt again.

That universal story of love lost and found again is, for all intents and purposes, our church's recent story. We've traveled a rocky road regarding our relationship with ministers. Those trials and tribulations were more about fit and timing than anything else. During the past two years, we've taken the opportunity to examine where we've been and where we are headed. We've looked objectively at ourselves: our finances, our staffing challenges, our gifts and talents. In the end, we realized that while we are in no way perfect, we are still quite a catch!

We are a congregation whose church sits, quite appropriately, where the city meets the woods. Comfortable in both worlds, it serves as a metaphor for who we are. From political activism to roadside cleanup, our congregation is one that likes to "get its hands dirty." For nearly 125 years, this church has been one of the few liberal outposts in the region, and as such, has served as an "incubator for activism." From city council meetings to PRIDE marches, UUCS members are engaged participants. We are especially proud of our status as a Welcoming Congregation, and in being a certified Green Sanctuary. We truly believe in "walking our talk," and that is evidenced in a nearly infinite number of activities, projects, and causes our members take part in every day.

The UUCS Religious Education program has long been a beacon to families who want to teach their children values in a progressive setting. Our young people regularly serve as ambassadors of tolerance and open-mindedness to the community at large. Of particular note is the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program wherein students get an accurate, honest and thorough understanding of sexuality and development.

For our members, coming to church means coming to a place of great tranquility and fellowship.

It is a place that allows us to connect and to recharge. Within a truly beautiful and peaceful setting, friends gather over good coffee to catch up with one another, and to think deeply about the issues of the day. While we believe we are very good at taking care of each other, from the youngest to the oldest among us, we are not nearly as good at welcoming newcomers into the fold. Attracting and keeping new members and then connecting them to their interests/desires has long been an area of major concern. Like our nation, a great number of our congregants are at or near retirement age. We feel urgency in finding new and dynamic people who can take on leadership roles.

Time and again, we've proven to be true to our convictions and unafraid to take the path less traveled by. Our proud history has forged within us a resiliency and independence that permeates all we do. From church services to church governance, we like to do things in a way that is uniquely ours. We are not in need of a trailblazer, as we like the direction we're going. What we need is a partner to walk hand-in-hand with us in our journey.