

Syracuse  
April 3rd,  
1985

Dear Dr. Bob,

Again many thanks for your very kind letter. I have an M.D. Degree and I am working part time in a Bank. I want you to know, however, that I am going to be a Unitarian Minister of Religion. I have \$35,000.00 inheritance put away for my Education. Now, I have 3 Unitarian Universalist Theological Schools in mind.

We now live in One World, but we have come to this world through many different experiences, histories and cultures. Therefore, while Our Way may seem best to us and while we must go forth boldly and courageously to press for human betterment in the light of our values and traditions, we must at the same time recognize that Others do not see the World as we do and do not have the Economic Base we have and may therefore have their different perspectives and their different funds of resources.

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offer different solutions to the problems we all face in common.

Issiah Berlin has put out responsibility thus: "to realize the relative validity of One's own conclusions, and yet to stand for them unflinchingly is what distinguishes a Civilized Person from a Barbarian." Unitarian-Universalist men and women seek to be Civilized persons within Berlin's definition.

This Posture follows naturally from Our Universalist heritage. Our Forebears declared that a loving God would not commit a section of Humanity arbitrarily to hell, which as a Penalty through no Special Merit they had achieved, went to Heaven. This Debate has long passed but it has secular overtones today. While rejecting an external Heaven and Hell we recognize; we recognize that heaven and hell can be made here on Earth. Within the Universalist Tradition this means that we declare that no

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Person, class, sex, community or nation has, by right, an especially preferred position, or has a monopoly of either truth or the proper way to live. Each has the right to seek its heaven and avoid its hell in its own way, with the proviso that all must likewise respect both the rights of others and the Ecology nature has provided us with, and that there is cooperation and sharing in the use of the World's scarce resources.

Unitarian-Universalist policies tolerance encompasses both a firm conviction, that there is no interfering god to guide our ways, a commitment to straighten out the messes we make, with respect for those who have found other truths and who feel divine guidance.

In this spirit we seek world Peace, human Brotherhood and Sisterhood, respect for all human Beings, regardless of race, sex or Citizenship, and we search for the

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truth which will make all people  
free.

Unitarian-Universalist Societies  
seek to be Centers of tolerance and  
understanding as well as Centers  
of social concern and public  
Commitment.

What do we want our Children  
to have? In Unitarian-Universalist  
Schools; not much, really, except  
that on Sunday mornings, they can  
go to a Place where they will  
be welcomed with song, celebration with  
loving ceremonies and protected from  
tedium, dogma and contradictions.  
Where religious questions are  
fearlessly examined. We Unitarians-  
Universalists should bear in mind  
that there is no reason to believe in  
Christian Doctrines and that much of  
the Christian Ethic is unworthy of self-  
respecting people. I should like to  
make clear that I am not a Christian.

Of course, there is another sense  
which you find in Whitaker's Almanack

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and in Geography Books where  
the population of the world is said  
to be divided into Christians,  
Mohammedans, Buddhists, Fetish  
Worshippers, and so; in this sense  
we may all be Christians. The  
Geography Books count us all in,  
but that is purely a geographical  
sense which I presume you may  
ignore.

We always have been Unitarian-  
Universalists except for Uncle Ernest,  
and a few other members of our  
large Family.

Very sincerely yours,  
Bill Galvan