

'Seek the Truth and Serve Humanity'

What is Unitarianism?

As there is no set creed or dogma in Unitarian churches, they develop differently – some retaining some orthodox beliefs and others becoming mostly Humanist.

Although liberal in religious ideas, there can be a variety of opinions within any Unitarian church. Toleration has always been a characteristic of Unitarians from the 16th century to the present time. We recognise that truth cannot be imposed upon a person by others or by tradition. Unitarians trace their history back to the courageous heretics who dared to apply reason to religion. Such men as Michael Servetus, Giorgio Biandrata, Faustus Socinus and Francis David. During the last one hundred and fifty years some outstanding Unitarians were Joseph Priestley, Theodore Parker, William Ellery Channing, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Albert Schweitzer and Florence Nightingale. Australian Unitarians include Catherine Helen Spence (\$5 note), Sir William A'Beckett and poet Bernard O'Dowd.

Sunday Services

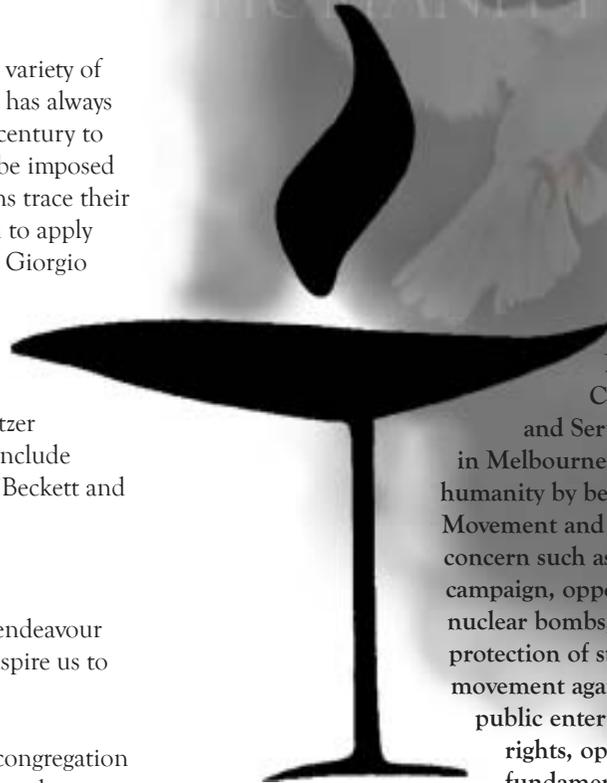
We hold a service every Sunday at 11:00 am. We endeavour through these services to present ideas that will inspire us to further thought and effort.

These services are conducted by members of our congregation and addresses are given either by church members or by guest speakers.

Hymns of 'Modern Thought' are sung.

The service is followed by a social gathering and light lunch during which we meet new friends and have an opportunity for informal discussion.

All are welcomed to our service.



The motto of the Melbourne Unitarian Church is 'Seek the Truth and Serve Humanity'. Unitarians in Melbourne have tried to serve humanity by being active in the Peace Movement and with other issues of social concern such as the anti-Vietnam war campaign, opposition to the testing of nuclear bombs, civil rights, the protection of state education, the movement against fascism, support for public enterprise, Aboriginal land rights, opposition to fundamentalist religions, etc.

Although each Unitarian church is autonomous, there are fellowships and churches in Britain, the United States, Canada, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania and New Zealand.

The Melbourne church is also affiliated with the Australian and New Zealand Unitarian Association (ANZUA).

The Unitarian Universalist Association in the USA and Canada has a membership of over 1200 congregations serving over 250,000 adults and children.

Minister

The appointment or not of a minister is the decision of the congregation.

Finances

The expenses of the church are met from contributions from members and friends and from rents and investments.

Government of the Church

We are democratic, for ultimate authority and responsibility belongs to the members of the church. The congregation (i.e. the church members) makes its own rules and elects a Management Committee, which conducts the affairs of the church. All-important decisions are put to the congregation who can accept or reject the committee's recommendations. Newsletters and Quarterly Meetings for the congregation provide information and opportunities to share ideas. Our devotion to democracy is not merely a matter of method, but our profound belief in the way people should relate together. All human beings are worthy of participation in the affairs of human society and should be encouraged to accept its opportunities and disciplines.

Membership

Membership application forms are available at the church and all who are in sympathy with the aims of the church are welcomed. For those, through distance or other reasons who are unable to attend services, we are pleased to welcome as associate members.

Unitarian Extension Movement

is the outreach arm of our church where issues of Unitarianism and social justice are taken out to friends and neighbours of members in the suburbs. The UEM also organises special extended services on particular social justice issues.

Poetry & Music Group

Our Poetry and Music Group meets monthly. Each of us is invited to present our own work or poems from much-loved poets. These meetings are warm and relaxed and we welcome more of our friends.

Unitarian Library

A selection of books is available for members and friends to borrow. We are regularly purchasing a number of new books for our members and friends to enjoy. Copies of addresses on Unitarianism and other topics are also available.



Unitarian Half-Hour

Our church program on community radio goes to air each Saturday morning at 10.30 am on 3CR (855kh). We present talks on Unitarianism and related topics linked with community-based groups. We report on current issues in line with our creed 'Seek the Truth and Serve Humanity', which is the name of our program.

Unitarian Philosophy Group

The Philosophy Group meets monthly to discuss the application of Philosophy to the way we live - the search for truth and meaning, justice, equity and compassion. We usually follow a formal program such as the American Unitarian Universalist 'Building your own Theology' by Richard S. Gilbert. The discussion is wide and free-ranging but certainly not intimidating or overly academic - life experiences are honoured and respected.

The Beacon

Our monthly magazine, *The Beacon* is a most important activity. We print articles on Unitarianism and related subjects - both political and social - that are the concern of people today. Opinions expressed in *The Beacon* are not usually found in the daily papers. New subscribers are welcomed. The cost of an annual subscription is \$20 or \$10 concession with a three-month complimentary 'trial' available on request.

Finally, as Unitarians:

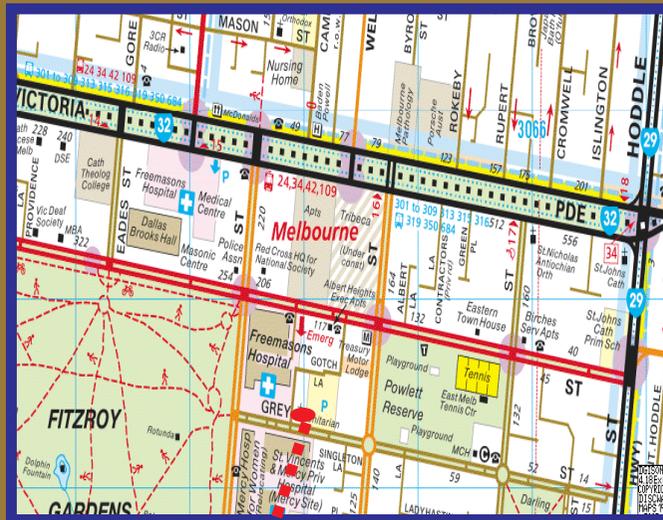
We believe that we must help to make this world a safer, more environmentally secure, more democratic and more inclusive place for all people. We believe mankind can make a better life, where all can reach their full potential; a life where each one works for the best welfare and greater happiness of all people.

MELBOURNE UNITARIAN PEACE MEMORIAL CHURCH

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How to find us



We are here. Melway ref: 2G D2

Are you a *Unitarian* without knowing it?



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