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1.

Calvinism taught that God decided before you were even born whether you would be “saved” and go to heaven, or go to hell and be tortured forever. What do you think about heaven and hell?

2.

Calvinists looked for signs from God: if you went to church, if you worked hard and if you were successful, it seemed as if God had chosen you to go to heaven.

3.

Calvinism created a lot of fear: When bad things happened to people that was also a sign—a sign that you were not chosen by God.

4.

Unitarianism grew in North America because of changes in thinking about these harsh Calvinist ideas within New England congregations. What is one thing you used to believe was true but you don't anymore?

5.

Three big changes in thinking were: 1. Jesus was a great teacher but not divine, not an actual part of God, 2. God is loving, not punishing and 3. Human beings are basically good; they are not born sinful.

6.

Deciding for yourself what you believe was, and still is, an important part of North American Unitarianism. Have you ever decided for yourself that you believed something even though others believe something different?

7.

North American Unitarians believe in freedom of religious choice and acceptance of different religious beliefs and practices. Have you ever gone to a church service that wasn't UU?

8.

North American Unitarian congregations are democratically run: each has control of its own affairs. Do you know who the president of your congregation is?

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9.

There is no single creed (statement of belief) or doctrine (teachings) common to all North American Unitarians. Are there words your congregation members say together every Sunday? What do you call that?

10.

The UUA Statement of Principles and Purposes is an agreement among ourselves to support certain things we think are important, like working to make the world more fair for all. Does your church have a statement of principles? Can you name some of them?

11.

From the beginning, Universalist churches reached out to people who were not accepted by others. For instance, the Universalist church in Gloucester, MA had a freed slave among its first membership. Have you ever felt left out or different from your friends because of your religion?

12.

Universalists were more *evangelical* than Unitarians: they wanted to spread their “good news” about salvation being for all people across the growing United States and Canada. Have you ever had a good idea that was so good it was impossible to keep it to yourself?

13.

Along the coast and across the prairies of Canada, Universalism was often preached by ministers who traveled from small town to small town by train or horseback. How far have you traveled across your country? Have you visited UU congregations in other cities?

14.

The Universalist church was the first in North America to ordain a woman minister: Olympia Brown, in 1863. Today more than half the UU ministers in North America are women. Do you know any ministers who are women?

15.

Unitarians used to say they believed in “salvation by character.” This means that you are in charge of whether or not you become a good person, by your efforts to help make the world better for all. Does your church or Sunday school class have special social action projects it supports?

16.

The women’s suffrage (right to vote) movement had many important Unitarian leaders, like Susan B. Anthony in the United States and Emily Stowe in Canada.

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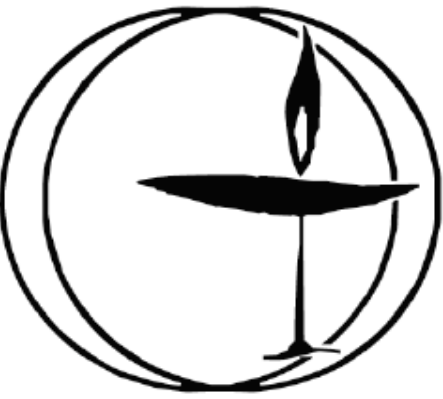
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17.

For North American Unitarian Universalists, the Bible is only one of many important religious books. Can you name another sacred, or holy, book?

18.

Today, many Canadian congregations consider themselves Unitarian Universalists, while others prefer to be called Unitarian only. What is the name of your church? Do you know how it got its name?

19.

Most UU churches in North America light a chalice at the start of the worship service. The chalice is a symbol of freedom and hope. Do you ever light a chalice at home?

20.

North American Unitarian Universalism is called a “living tradition” because it is always growing and changing with new ideas and new ways to include others. Today there are over 1,000 UU congregations in the United States and 51 in Canada.