

## OUR THEOLOGICAL ROOTS

Historically, the Unitarians affirmed the unity of God (as opposed to the Trinity) and encouraged the use of reason, tolerance and dialogue in religion.

Universalists believed all of existence would ultimately reunite with the Creator, and thus rejected the idea of Hell and affirmed our responsibility to form Heaven here on Earth.

Together, in contemporary language, Unitarian Universalist simply means “One Love and No One Left Behind.”

Today’s Unitarian Universalism is united by seven moral principles and affirms that the final authority in religion must be the conscience of each individual.

### The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism:

*The inherent worth and dignity of every person;*

*Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;*

*Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;*

*A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;*

*The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;*

*The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;*

*Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

## WHAT DOES MEMBERSHIP MEAN?

Members of Bradford UU receive many unique services from the congregation not generally available to non-members.

### Membership privileges at Bradford UU:

- ♥ Free wedding, commitment, rite of passage, memorial and funeral services;
- ♥ Access to professional pastoral services of the minister;
- ♥ Ability to propose initiatives and programs to the congregation;
- ♥ Ability to plan and lead worship;
- ♥ Ability to vote on important issues facing the church including the selection of ministers;
- ♥ Ability to run for leadership positions;
- ♥ Access to the support of staff and fellow members in times of need.

Members of Bradford UU are also expected to contribute to the community in several specific ways.

### Membership expectations of Bradford UU:

- ♥ Attending services whenever in town and not indisposed;
- ♥ Participating in congregational events;
- ♥ Attending and voting at congregational meetings;
- ♥ Volunteering to at least one program each church year;
- ♥ Connecting with other members through committee work, Chalice Circle small-group ministries, and social events;
- ♥ Making a monetary contribution of record every church year as able;
- ♥ Participating in public actions supported by the church whenever possible.

## ARE YOU READY?

You may be ready to become a member of Bradford UU if you have done most or all of the following:

- ♥ Attended our worship services several times;
- ♥ Talked with Bradford members about our church;
- ♥ Spoke with the minister about Unitarian Universalism;
- ♥ Read literature about Unitarian Universalism;
- ♥ Read and agreed with the Seven Principles;
- ♥ Participated in church or related committee activities;
- ♥ Attended an *Explorers’ Class*.

## HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

Becoming a member is easy once you’ve decided Bradford UU is right for you!

- ♥ Alert the minister or membership chair of your intention to join;
- ♥ Attend a New Member Sunday service;
- ♥ Sign your name to our membership book;
- ♥ Fill out an intake form for our database;
- ♥ Make a pledge of record or speak with the minister for a dispensation.

## CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

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262.656.0544

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## WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH



The members of this congregation welcome the support of all who believe that religion is wider than any sect and deeper than any set of opinions; and all who might find, in this community, strength and encouragement for daily living.



### AFFILIATIONS

Bradford Community Church is affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).  
Learn more about the UUA at [UUA.org](http://UUA.org).

## OUR HISTORY

In 1952, a Unitarian fellowship had been formed in Kenosha sharing the services of the pastor of the Universalist Church of the Good Shepherd in neighboring Racine. After the Unitarian and Universalist merger in 1961, the Kenosha Unitarians merged with the Racine Universalists, meeting in Racine.

A UU presence in Kenosha was kept alive however by a Social Concerns Committee, formed in 1970 and active in a member of programs and projects including Planned Parenthood and Mothers for Peace. With this committee as a nucleus, a small group formed a Kenosha branch of the Racine church in 1979, meeting in rental spaces, and sharing the services of the Rev. Tony Larsen, who still serves the Racine congregation.

When, in 1987, the demands on Tony Larsen's time became too great, the group obtained its own charter, taking the name of educator and lay leader from the early congregation, Mary D. Bradford, and called its first minister.

In 1992, the congregation purchased the property at 5810 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue which had been built and dedicated as the First Unitarian Church of Kenosha which operated on this site from 1868 until its dissolution in 1926. The building served many purposes in the time between – most notably as the Kenosha Children's Library from 1926 until 1979.

Bradford UU has had nine ministers since 1987 and has grown to over one hundred fifty members and friends. Are you part of our future history?

## Unitarian Universalist Explorers



**BRADFORD**  
**COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**  
5810 8th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53140  
[BradfordUU.org](http://BradfordUU.org) [Facebook.com/BradfordUU](https://Facebook.com/BradfordUU)