

**Q: What is the Catholic Universalist Church?**

**A:** The Catholic Universalist Church (CUC) is a self-governing jurisdiction of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church in the Liberal Catholic tradition.

**Q: Are you affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church?**

**A:** No. We are an independent and self-governing Church. Although not affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church, the CUC offers valid catholic liturgy and sacraments to those who come to hear that the Gospel really is "Good News" in that all will ultimately be reconciled to the Divine. We respect all people from diverse spiritual paths - the sacramental table is open for everyone!

**Q: What do you mean by 'Universalist'?**

**A:** Universalism is the belief that, in the fullness of time and in the infinite love and mercy of God, all beings will ultimately find their rest in the Love of God and will be united with him in paradise. We believe that salvation is for everyone – no one gets left behind!

**Q: Do you believe in God?**

**A:** Yes. We do believe in God. God manifests himself in different cultures, in different forms to different people with different needs.

**Q: Do you believe in hell then?**

**A:** Well, that is up to the individual to decide. The Lord bestowed upon all of us the grace to see him in the different experiences that we face in day to day life. Theology is experiential.

Some members of the Church believe that hell is a reality but only temporary. These people believe that hellfire is purifying and like purifying gold or various precious metals need to be stricken out of impurities before considered to be perfect.

Some Early Church Fathers believed in this teaching such as Origen, St. Gregory of Nyssa, St. Clement of Alexandria and many more.

Some members of the Church believe that Earth is hell in itself and that we are purified as we live in it. Other subscribe to reincarnation and other forms of the teaching.

However, though our views may be very varied and different, we are united in the belief that the mercy and love of God transcends evil and hell. That the same God who is omnipotent (all-powerful), omnipresent (all-seeing), and omniscient (all-knowing) chooses, in his divine love to draw all of us unto himself that he may be all in all.

**Q. Does this Church have distinctive doctrines for one to follow?**

**A.** The church subscribes to intellectual freedom; therefore we do not require anyone to accept our beliefs. They are offered as a teaching framework only. It is up to the individual to experience *Gnosis* – the Knowledge of the Divine in their own ways and spiritual paths. Our teachings as a church are guided by these principles but each individual is free to reason and interpret as their own good conscience dictates.

**Q: What do you generally believe?**

**A:** These are the principle theses taught by the Catholic Universalist Church:

- We teach that there is One Reality, an Infinite Divine Source, who is Love, Light, Truth, and Spirit, whom we are called to seek, know, and love; this One Reality has acted to initiate the universe, and whose nature was revealed to the world in the person and teachings of Master Jesus of Galilee, known as the Christ.
- We teach that the universal commandment is to love and serve one another, as we love and serve ourselves.
- We teach that there is a law of justice by which actions generate consequences, whether to be manifested in this life or the life to come; and that love, grace and forgiveness ultimately overcome the law of justice.
- We teach that the grace of God provides a full and final triumph over separation and death: the mercy and forgiveness of God are always victorious; this victory of redemption is revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; and that, therefore, no human being will be allowed to suffer pain and separation forever.
- We teach that every person is the divine offspring of One Reality, created in the image of the Heavenly Parent of all; the destiny of every person is to be raised up from imperfection to maturity according to the pattern of the archetypal Christ, the Child of the Divine Source, and the Perfect Human in whose image all humanity shall be transformed.
- We teach that mysterious spiritual phenomena, such as the resurrection of Jesus, which transcend materialistic views of reality, exist though they defy human explanation.
- We teach that the One Reality, functioning as the Holy Spirit has inspired numerous prophets, saints, philosophers, and mystics throughout history, in a variety of cultures and traditions; by reading the Bible and other great texts of spiritual and moral wisdom with a discerning mind, and meditating to connect to the Spirit within, there is a greater understanding of truth to be gained. This understanding should be applied for the betterment of our world and ourselves.
- We teach that Christ instituted various sacraments in which an inward and spiritual grace is given to us through an outward and visible sign. There are seven rites, which may be ranked as sacraments, or mysteries, namely: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Absolution, Anointing of the Distressed, Holy Matrimony, and Holy Orders. The Christ is the true minister of all sacraments.
- We teach and uphold the primacy of the human intellect and will in discerning all matters relevant to one's body, soul and spirit.

**Q: Are the sacraments open for everyone?**

**A:** The purpose for the establishment of this church is to bring the love of God, as we hear in the Good News of Universalism, to all peoples of all places in the world. All who come with an open, honest heart are welcome, and the CUC does not discriminate based on race, gender, nationality, sexual orientation or identification, ethnicity, or disability. Our sacraments, including the fullness of Holy Orders, are available to all regardless of one's religious affiliation or gender orientation.

**Q: So women and people who are openly part of the LGBT community can be ordained?**

**A:** Yes. It's open for everyone.

**Q: Do you marry people in the LGBT community?**

**A:** We do and openly embrace it! However it must be remembered that as citizens of a given state we must abide by the laws set therein.

**Q: What is your view of the occult?**

**A:** The Occult refers to the mystical and 'hidden' spiritual knowledge passed on by spiritual adepts to their initiated students. The CUC is not affiliated with any esoteric or occult organizations. However individuals are encouraged to spiritually grow. The CUC has no hidden teachings or secret initiatory rites that one has to pass through in order to gain access to certain mystical insights.

Since our Church is a part of the Liberal Catholic Movement, we adopted some beliefs uniquely found in Theosophy and other Eastern Philosophies. But one does not have to be part of any organization in order to be part of the CUC. One may be a freemason, a theosophist, an occultist, a ceremonial magician, a yogi or whatever one wants to be as long as it is for their benefit and spiritual growth.

