

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources . . .

1. *DIRECT EXPERIENCE* of that transcending mystery & wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life

18th Century Universalist mystics
19th Century Unitarian Transcendentalists

2. *Words and deeds of PROPHETIC WOMEN & MEN* which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion & the transforming power of love

importance of human (not "divine") exemplars
our UU "saints" of all traditions: Jesus, Buddha, Gandhi, King, Reeb, Barton, Conant etc etc etc

3. *Wisdom from the WORLD'S RELIGIONS* which inspires us in our ethical & spiritual life

1830s: discovery of Hindu & Buddhist texts; published in Transcendentalist journal The Dial
1893: Parliament of World Religions in Chicago
1893: Theosophical Society
UU Buddhist Fellowship

4. *JEWISH & CHRISTIAN* teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves

Unitarian & Universalist history within Christian tradition
authority of the Bible understood by reason
1945: the "off-center cross" of the Humiliati
UU Christian Fellowship
UUs for Jewish Awareness
King's Chapel, Boston

5. *HUMANIST* teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason & the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind & spirit

Renaissance Humanism (Erasmus, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, et al)
1870: Free Religious Association
1933: Humanist Manifesto
Fellowship of Religious Humanists, Ethical Culture Society, American Humanist Assn.
First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis

6. *Spiritual teachings of EARTH-CENTERED traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature*

PAGANISM

19th & early 20th C England

1887: Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn

1920s: Margaret Murray

1890/1922: Frazier's Golden Bough (multi- & single-volume editions)

1940s & 50s: Gerald Gardner

1951: last Anti-Witchcraft laws repealed; Sybil Leek begins public witchcraft

19th C North America

Transcendentalism (Unitarian)

Spiritualism (Universalist)

20th-C North America

1963 – Ghost Hunter, by Hans Holzer

1968: Sybil Leek & Carlos Castaneda in USA

1970: Joseph Campbell

1979: Starhawk's SPIRAL DANCE

1985: CUUPS (Covenant of UU Pagans) founded at Atlanta GA

1989: Panthea established

1995: 6th Source added

FEMINISM

Unitarian & Universalist history of women's involvement in leadership

1863 - Olympia Brown

5 women ministers at UUSG

1963 – Betty Friedan's The Feminine Mystique

1971/72 – MS Magazine appears

1973 - Beacon Press publishes Mary Daly's Beyond God the Father:

Toward a Philosophy of Women's Liberation

early 1980s, UU women protest "hierarchical/masculinist" language of old P&P

1983: work began on revision of P&P

DEEP ECOLOGY

19th C Transcendentalism (Emerson, Thoreau, Parker)

late 1960s/early 1970s: Environmental Movement begins

1967: Lynn White Jr., The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis

April 1970 - the first EARTH DAY

1972: Arnold Toynbee blamed monotheism & Gen. 1:28 for damage to ecosystems;

recommended return to pantheism, "which is older and was once universal"

1972: Matthew Fox appears on the religious scene – Center for Creation Spirituality

1979 – Lovelock, Gaia, a New Look at Life on Earth

ORTHODOXY=>HETERODOXY=>HUMANISM=>UNIVERSAL RELIGION=>1985/1995 P & P

The Statement of Purposes & Principles, together with the Sources, provides a snapshot – NOT a creed or a litmus test or a permanent description – of who we understood ourselves to be in 1985 and 1995. In another 25 years, the wording may be quite different – but the underlying values are not likely to change...