

Jay Wolin's Statement about his Theology:

If I had to narrowly define my theology, I would call myself a Mystical Humanist. The theological context of my call to Unitarian Universalist Ministry is my realization that we are part of something greater than ourselves. Initially, reason and critical thinking led me to the theological position of Humanism. By using the word Humanism, my understanding is that we as humans have the ability and the responsibility for learning about and understanding the purpose of our existence. I believe humanity has the ability to create and destroy, and thus, we are responsible for the outcome of our actions. What we do with our life, and *how* we do it, matters.

I remain a searcher of knowledge and wisdom, and I keep an open mind. I believe that there is much that is still unknown to us. Curiosity and persistence are strong traits of mine, and this keeps me open to experiences and knowledge that has allowed my theology to evolve.

I have had personal experiences that lead me to believe that there is something that makes us interconnected and interdependent with the rest of reality. In deep states of meditation and in walking a labyrinth, I have felt this connection to the larger universe. I believe when I am really in touch with my inner self, I am connected to the universe, and I see others and the environment around me more clearly. I become comfortable with who I am. Due to this, I am not defensive and thus, I am open to hearing and accepting the stories and wisdom of others and connecting with them. It is in the awakening of these connections with others, that I find and create meaning in life.