

Why the UCC?

I have been thinking a lot about last years' Annual Meeting theme lately, Rooted in Love, and what that theme means to me personally. I first discovered church and the UCC on my own in high school. Prior to that, my family had become non-church goers when I was in grade school. I attended a UCC church that had a fabulous youth group – a group where I and others, found comradery and refuge and purpose. When I went away to college, I drifted away from the church and the UCC. Then when my wife and I were looking for a church to raise our son in, I rediscovered the church and the UCC.

Why the UCC? For me, it represents a theological position I am very comfortable with –both emotionally and intellectually. I do not believe God is hellfire and brimstone. I believe in a God that has compassion and love. I do believe in Jesus's teachings of love one another, no matter who you are. These beliefs may be simplistic but they work for me. And so ever since my first son was born, I have attended, volunteered at, and supported a UCC church. I support the UCC because those simple beliefs stated above are important to me to nurture and grow – that the roots planted in love need sustenance to grow. That sustenance in this world is time and money. That is why I support the UCC. And why I ask you to support the Pacific Northwest Conference and the UCC - to keep the UCC growing, to nurture the belief that God and Jesus represent love and compassion and acceptance of all God's creatures alive. There are other forces out there that believe something else. That is their right to have that belief. I have my right to my belief of God and Jesus. I believe it is critically important to keep that belief of God and Jesus alive – through time talent and treasure. I humbly ask that you do the same. Keep this Root in Love alive. Please give to the Pacific Northwest Conference.

Andy Warren