

Forward to "A Chosen Faith" By Rev. Robert Fulghum

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Here's part of a conversation in a _____Noun:

"Mr. Fulghum, is it true that you're a _____A profession?"

"Yes."

"Where's your church?"

"We're _____Verb - Base Form in it."

"But this is a bookstore and it's a Friday."

"Yes, but you might also choose to see it as a cathedral of the human spirit--a storehouse consecrated to the full spectrum of human experience. Just about every idea we've ever had is in here somewhere. A _____Noun containing great thinking is a sacred space."

"Really? Just what kind of _____A profession are you?"

"Unitarian Universalist."

"And you hold services in bookstores on Fridays? You're putting me on."

"No, but I am giving you an example of how Unitarian Universalists think. More than anything else, our religion is defined by an attitude. An open-minded point of view. About everything and anything. What we have most in common is an uncommon way of looking at the obvious. A _____Noun is not just a specific _____Noun, but also a way of looking at the building you're in at the moment. A minister is not just a person who stands in a pulpit and preaches on Sunday mornings, but also the way some people engage the world. A religion is not contained in a single book; there's something religious in almost any book."

"OK, but I've seen a building in my neighborhood with a sign that says, 'Unitarian Universalist Church' on it and there are a lot of cars parked around it on Sunday mornings. Looks like a Adjective church to me."

"Of course. We come together in community and do many things any religious community does--and Sunday mornings are a culturally convenient time to meet. But we also come together during the rest of the week."

"To do what?"

"To share ideas, Verb - Base Form political action, work on projects of benefit to the larger community in which we live, and hear speakers on a broad range of topics. We enjoy and need the companionship of like-minded people."

"Mr. Fulghum, I've read all your books. Is what you write a sample of what Unitarian Universalists believe"?

"Yes and no. I would expect and hope that many Unitarian Universalists would not agree with everything I think and write."

"You mean there's no party line - no dogma?"

"Yes and no. We agree that individuals must work out their own religious Noun. We agree that we will disagree on those conclusions. We agree to respect those differences. We agree to learn from one another through dialogue about our beliefs. We agree on a process and the tools to be used in the process."

"Give me some examples of the tools."

"The principles of democracy, integrity, continuing education, ad individual responsibility, to name a few."

"It sounds more like NPR or PBS more than a Noun."

