

# Unitarian Universalist blessing for the Dedication of the Owensboro Convention Center

Unitarian Universalism is an interfaith denomination. We start our work as a community understanding that we believe and practice differently and knowing we still need each other.

Our community then is formed around a covenant we make with each other. So we don't gather despite our religious differences, but because of them. What this means regarding the use of buildings is two things:

**First**, the space must be safe for different traditions and spiritualities to be explored respectfully.

**Second**, we understand that any place where people gather is consecrated by their presence because of their God-given worth. My prayer today reflects these sensibilities.

***Let us pray:***

O Spirit of Life, breathing within us:

This is not a sacred site, but a place where people of 'inherent worth and dignity' gather.

We are grateful for these people.

When we gather here, may we be mindful of each other:

civil in discourse, generous in helping neighbors with varying abilities,  
and heedful of the diversity of perspectives.

Knowing not all events will meet our sensibilities, may we be gracious to each other  
even when we actually oppose each other.

O Spirit of Life, breathing within us:

This is not my place, but it is our place—built for the benefit of all.

We are grateful for this place.

When we gather here, may we also be respectful of the space we share:

may we regard it as a commons, use it wisely, and treat all who maintain it with deference.

Knowing not all neighbors will have access for all events,

May we hold the diversity of our community in care

Working ever to upbuild our city and improve our public life for everyone.

O Spirit of Life, breathing within us,

In peace we pray: So be it.

Rev. Dr. Claudia A. Ramisch  
Owensboro Convention Center  
Interfaith Service & Blessing  
Sunday, February 2, 2014