

Transcription of Inez Buis Interview

Ryan Stehlik and Micah Van Dusen, Interviewers

Sometime in 1993

Abstract

Longtime member Inez Buis sat down with Ryan Stehlik and Micah Van Dusen, two members of the UUFHC youth group, for an interview on the early character of UUFHC. The interview took place at the Fellowship sometime in 1993, but the exact date has been lost. The interview was videotaped and then transcribed in this document.



RYAN: My first question for her is, how long have you been a UU?

INEZ: I have been a Unitarian for 36 years in this County, since 1957.

RYAN: Did you have any expectations when you first joined this new church, this new religion?

INEZ: We had found out quite a bit about the church and about the beliefs, and so I found that it was heard about. I felt that it might release, and so that's why I can't say that it was any different from what I had expected, because I had planned ahead of time, or investigated ahead of time.

MICAH: What was the first feeling you had about joining the Unitarian Universalists as a new church?

INEZ: I felt that it was a church that I could live with, that I would enjoy being here, and I felt like it was a good home for me.

MICAH: How did you go about joining the church in the first years?

INEZ: Well, I think I'll go back to the beginning, when my husband was working at the Proving Ground, and he was talking to a fellow worker who was a member of the very first group. His name was John Denny, and John told him all about our Fellowship.

Our children at that time were young, and they felt that it would be good for them to come to the church, so they came on Easter Sunday in 1957, and that was the first time. They were meeting at that time at the Wilma Church, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Wilma, and he was interning at that time, before this church was built.

RYAN: Alright, and the last question is, you are on the Archives Committee, and so you have seen everything, the documents and the papers and stuff. How much has this church changed in the past few years?

INEZ: Well, it's changed considerably, because we did not have a minister for quite a number of years, until fairly recently, and to have a Sunday service, we would take turns in having the Sunday service. We had no choir. Sometimes we would get together and choir sing, but just for a special occasion. We often, not only took turns, but we invited people from the community to speak to us. At that time, we paid nothing for them. Then we got so that we would invite min-

isters and pay them for coming. So as the years went by, we got a minister on loan from Boston, Reverend Fuchs came, and then after that, we began searching for a minister for several years. And then we had an extension minister, Geoff Drutchas, if you remember. Was that 1984? I think that was right, 1984. And then after his term was over, he was our first minister, as we called him, Al Weston. We are here for today.

RYAN: Okay, that's it. Say bye. ■