



The Transcendentalist movement that *exploded* around Emerson was the most luminous American contribution to religious and spiritual thought.

But the story isn't over.

Meet the Transcendentalists and learn their story and how **we can extend their vision** for today and tomorrow.

Meet contemporary visionaries like Ken Wilber, Andrew Cohen, and Aurobindo.

Call it evolutionary enlightenment.
See what this compelling spiritual vision means in your life, what it means for the world.

Religion will serve either as a powerful lock on the archaic past, or as a powerful engine for the evolution of consciousness. Here's an evolutionary spiritual vision that can revitalize our Unitarian Universalist movement.

“ PARTICIPANTS SAY: ”

“You gave new life and meaning to the great visionary leaders that shaped Unitarianism and this country. And the leap to our need for evolutionary enlightenment is brilliant. This message — and these workshops — need to be shared by all UU congregations: it really is the way to increase our growth in the right evolutionary practice.”

“I found your series not only intellectually stimulating and personally meaningful, but also, at my life's present point, especially relevant. I also find you immensely likable. In addition, at this juncture in my life's journey, your manner of presentation suited me well.”

“Had been struggling with why cultivate a spiritual practice — this is very useful.”

“Very timely and enlightening: conducive to soul growth.”

“Wonderful! This is fascinating and inspiring stuff.”

“The bringing together of the Transcendentalists with the current material is very forceful — ties together two important passions.”

“I found these sessions to be most worthwhile. Some of it was completely new to me and quite thought-provoking. The brief meditation session on Saturday afternoon brought me closer to what I've always imagined a meditative state would be like than anything else I've tried. I'm interested in exploring that further.”

“I would definitely recommend this course to other UU congregations and persons. Abundantly relevant, informative, and inspiring. Extremely engaging and exciting for me. I hope Jay gets to do a national tour with this! His presentation engaged and stimulated me and clearly did so for others. The seminars expanded my knowledge of both Transcendentalist and UU history (and their relationship) and brilliantly traced these to present-day figures such as Ken Wilber. Also, all this pointed to clear social action implications. I'm deeply grateful.”

PART ONE: THE TRANSCENDENTALISTS

SESSION I

UNITARIANISM BEFORE EMERSON

You might be surprised! What was “Supernatural Rationalism”?
The appearance of a spiritual revolutionary.

SESSION II

“THE NEWNESS”: HARBINGERS OF THE REVOLUTION

It’s an amazing story, and even UUs know little of it.

SESSION III

THE CUTTING EDGE: SYSTEMS SHAKE

The Transcendentalists as leaders of the anti-slavery movement;
Emerson, Theodore Parker, and Senator Sumner.

SESSION IV

STORIES FROM THE FRONT LINES/LEGACY

Brook Farm, Walt Whitman, later Transcendentalists
and the enduring legacy.

PART TWO: INTEGRAL SPIRITUALITY

SESSION V

A CONTEMPORARY ENLIGHTENMENT

Think the story ended somewhere in the 19th century? Wrong! How
the Transcendentalists’ work is extended in the work of contemporary
thinkers and explorer, and other pioneers who pursue the
Transcendentalist vision — the evolutionary dimension of spirituality.

OPTIONAL PART THREE: EVOLUTIONARY ENLIGHTENMENT

SESSION VI

WHAT IS EVOLUTIONARY ENLIGHTENMENT?

Presentation and conversation about an evolutionary/revolutionary approach
to spiritual life — including “The Universe Awakening to Itself: The Practice
and Purpose of Meditation”

OPTIONAL SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Jay Deacon preaches on Context: The Farthest Reaches of Possibility for
Congregational Life — a Higher “We”!

ANOTHER OPTION: SUNDAY AFTERNOON

WHAT KIND OF CONGREGATION?

THE FARTHEST REACHES OF POSSIBILITY

ABOUT JAY DEACON

Dr Deacon is a Unitarian Universalist minister. For a decade until 2002
he served as minister of Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congrega-
tion in the Chicago suburb of Oak Park—whose home was designed by
an early member, Frank Lloyd Wright, and built between 1905 and 1909.
He led the successful consolidation of the
two former Oak Park UU congregations to
create UTUUC. He has served congregations
in Newport, RI; Northampton, MA; Manches-
ter, NH; North Easton, MA; Orlando, FL; and
with his previous denomination (Metropolitan
Community Churches), Hartford and Chicago.
During a six-month sabbatical he served Uni-
tarian congregations in London and Aberdeen,
Scotland. He served as Director of GLBTQ
Concerns at UUA headquarters in Boston.



His book, *Magnificent Journey: Religion as
Lock on the Past or Engine of Evolution*, appeared in 2011, with a third edi-
tion due in 2017.

More at: jaydeacon.net