

Not Even Sure You Want to be Part of a Church?

You were raised in a good Christian home, by good Christian parents. Your siblings are all good Christians. But you stopped going to church; something didn't feel right. You may have even started to question your faith. But something still doesn't feel right. What do you do now?

A good start might be to evaluate why you stopped going to church in the first place; why you questioned your faith. It's possible, probable even, that a different church has a different feel. Probable that a different church has different answers to the questions of faith or church policies that were an issue for you. First Congregational Church of Geneva is a congregation of individuals from a wide variety of faith backgrounds, many of whom have left another church looking for something else and landed here. Some of the reasons they love First Congregational Church of Geneva are shared here with you.

- *"In my parent's church I felt as if nobody was who they seemed to be, including me. I felt like I had to pretend I believed the same things, or was interested in the same things that everyone else was. I felt like I had to be serious about everything, which is not my style. Here I feel like everybody is just more sincere. They laugh a lot, even during church. Everyone is sincere, and I could see it right away."*
- *"I felt like my old church was all talk and no action; like the only requirement to be a Christian was to wish you were a better person. Here we are always living out our faith. We don't just toss extra change into a collection plate and call it a day. We find people in need and think up ways to help them. We write letters, we take stands. I feel encouraged and supported to live in a way that feels right now."*
- *"I always got the feeling that there were groups of people at my old church that didn't fit in, who weren't welcome. I was never comfortable with that, even though I fit in well enough. Now I go to church with all kinds of different people, with all kinds of ideas and goals."*
- *"Before I started to come to First Congregational I wasn't sure what I believed, but I knew it wasn't what everyone else seemed to believe. I had questions that I felt I never got an opportunity to ask, and that no one else seemed to need an answer to. The few times I felt brave enough to ask my priest a question I got an answer that felt more like dodging; like talking to a politician. Almost like he didn't have any better formulated thoughts than I did. Now I feel like I can ask any question I want to, to anyone. People ask questions all the time. We have book clubs and discussion groups that let me say what I think and listen to what other people think. My pastor is totally accessible."*
- *"In my [old] church I never got a sense that there was much respect for women, or a woman's ability to lead. This church is nothing like that. Everyone who wants a chance to lead gets it."*
- *"Our little church has some of the most genuine people I have ever met. We all help in some way when we can. And it doesn't feel "forced" it is what we want to do. Our church is simple and it isn't pretentious and that is what is so great about it."*