



## *In Memoriam*

### *I Am Starr King: Interview with The Rev. Dan Kane*

*This interview was conducted on March 20, 2015.*



*The Rev. Dan Kane  
Graduate of SKSM, Class of 2008  
Acting President of the Starr King  
Graduates Association*

*Why did you decide to become a religious leader?*

My life was transformed by Unitarian Universalism... Actually, my life was saved by Unitarian Universalism. I spent many years doing lay pastoral care at my home church in Oakland. And I found that the more I did pastoral care and coordinated the pastoral care program at the Oakland church, the more I felt called to a ministry that was grounded in pastoral care.

*Why did you decide to study at Starr King?*

I looked at other seminary options, but Starr King's educational pedagogy really appealed to me. The idea of being part of the Graduate Theological Union really appealed to me. And I had just experienced so many Starr King graduates over the years that I wanted to be a part of that community.

*Why did you decide to serve as Acting President of the Starr King Graduates Association?*

Well, this has been a very difficult year in the life of the school. And I wanted to step forward to see what I could do to support the school and to help bring us through this time of difficulty to place where we can learn our lessons from this experience and move forward incorporating those lessons. I know that Starr King is a very old institution; it has been around for 112 years. And I know that Starr King has gone through difficult times in the past. And I just wanted to have a hand in helping the school weather this one.

*What has been your most memorable or meaningful experience at Starr King?*

Serving on the Board, even in the ex-officio capacity in which I serve, has been very rewarding. I have learned so much about the school. It has definitely deepened my commitment to the school—I suppose I have fallen more in love with Starr King. I have deepened my commitment to help the school flourish and be there for people who want to become religious leaders.

*In your own words, what role does Starr King have within Unitarian Universalism and progressive religion?*

# STARR KING

## SCHOOL FOR THE MINISTRY

I think that Starr King is a leader in educating and cultivating Unitarian Universalists leaders, ministers, religious educators, and those seeking to deepen their understanding of Unitarian Universalism. But for me, the multi-religious experience that was available through Starr King was really important. I made a commitment to myself as a student to take classes in all of the different seminaries and centers associated with the Graduate Theological Union. I ended up taking a class that was offered in the Graduate School of Social Work at University of California, Berkeley that was incredibly rewarding. I feel that Starr King has been doing this work, as a Unitarian Universalist and multireligious seminary, for a long time, and I feel I personally have gained a lot from the school's experience and educational model.