



Not for Ourselves Alone: Building an Inclusive Future

First Universalist Church Capital Campaign



LEON PARIS GREENE

“I was asked to make this short, so I’ll do just that. I have said previously that I attended Oklahoma Christian University of Science and Arts and that I studied Bible (Theology). I was Minister of Education at a Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. I resigned at the age of twenty-eight and haven’t been a member of any organized religious, or otherwise, body since. I decided it was time to go on “An Unexpected Journey,” (one of my favorite movies). I arrived at the doors of First Universalist because you guys had already invented the All Inclusive Wheel. I did not see the need to reinvent it. Personally, I believe

that if I go anywhere after this life, that is how it is composed. I certainly don’t wish to be anywhere near most/all of the televangelists or that bible God (my opinion). The social justice, anti-discrimination platform is an added plus. I, personally, don’t see how any black man could, with a straight face, discriminate against anyone. I find strength in the thoughts, words and deeds of the ministers, including the choir and that awesome piano-playing doctor. (My pop played piano with those hard-worked railroad hands.) My values were forged into me by African and Irish grandfathers. My WWII college-educated father and uncles never spoke a disparaging remark of any white person that I can recall. My mom taught white kids how to read and they had to teach their parents. Their parents could vote in South Carolina, my mom could not. First Universalist exemplifies those same values. The right of every person, regardless of their position in life, to be allowed to worship without accusation. I have seen the evil of discrimination and segregation first hand from my grandmother’s porch on Secession Hill in Abbeville, South Carolina, flying across the street in the form of the Confederate Flag. A monument to the location that Calhoun and Davis signed the documents to leave the Union; basically, because they were too damn lazy and trifling to pick their own cotton. I continually attend First Universalist because in this imperfect world of impermanence, First Universalist is what I consider The Best of All Possible Worlds. Or, at least WE should attempt to be.”

