



Born and raised Unitarian Universalist, Shams Cohen is an inspiring multifaith leader, a grounded pastoral presence, and a devotedly omnivorous mystic. A published poet and recorded chant practitioner with a mid-life undergraduate degree in organizational communication and business management, Shams is adept at nurturing the growth opportunities that lay dormant within conflict and change. Experienced in DEI-focused religious leadership as a director, chaplain, bereavement counselor, minister, officiant, teacher, worship leader, and justice advocate in UU, Sufi, Jewish, NeoPagan, Sacred/ Ecstatic Dance, and multifaith/ interfaith/ no faith contexts, Shams enjoys using creativity to survive life's most emotionally devastating times.

Shams says: "I have come to deeply value honesty, transparency, vulnerability, and the ongoing journey to an embodied attitude of non-defensive openness. My spiritual maturation has involved many paths and an inquisitive left-and right-brained balance that has enriched both technical and emotional aspects of my vocation. I love sermons and singing. I love empowering youth and adults. I love exploring faith traditions and spiritual practices in the hopes that each of us might achieve 'direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life.' (from our UU Sources)"

It matters how we treat each other, and upon what we place our focus. Come, let us covenant together, and continue to begin.