

# MY LIFE AS A SPIRITUALIST

## Reverend Dianna Lashley

Growing up I always had an individual relationship with Jesus. I did not really have a “traditional” religious upbringing. Any time things were not going right I would go in my bedroom and have a conversation with Jesus about it. My family was not what you would call religious and I did not have much exposure to organized religious groups until I was married. I have always had an awareness of who I was but did not have the labels to attach to it until later in my life.

About the age of 10 things started happening around me that I could not explain. I would have conversations with people and know what they were going to say before they said it. I would also know when something was bothering somebody even if they did not share it with me. Back then I did not have the words to describe what was happening around me nor was there anyone to talk to about them.

Even at a young age I felt that by touching someone I could make them feel better. Whether it was helping the dog when she had hurt herself or easing my dad’s arthritis I knew I could have an affect. Sometimes I would watch the evangelical healers on television and think that some of what they were doing was for show. That healing did not need to be that elaborate.

Looking back when I was 8 or 9, my friends always used to seek me out for advice about life and relationships. Even though I might not have had the personal experience to share with them I always knew the right words to say to help them. Today I know this was Spirit working through me. Back then I did not really think about it much.

I reached a point in my life when I realized I needed to make changes and moving to California was one of them. I started looking for answers and eventually found Spiritual Awareness classes here. Not having any background in Spiritualism the classes seemed to give me terms for what I already knew. They gave me tools which helped me understand my life better and allowed me to experience new aspects of my spiritual self like being a healer. In all I was in Spiritual Awareness classes for over 12 years before taking the next step to being ordained as a Spiritualist Minister.

Has being ordained as a Spiritualist Minister changed my life? In some ways it has. I have always been a Spiritual person just now I have the title that lets others know who I really am. It changes people’s perception of me and puts more focus on how I live my life. As a minister there are more opportunities to help people and share some of what I have learned. The real changes in my life though have been occurring all along. Becoming a minister may have made me more aware of how I have changed but in the end being ordained was another step on a path I started long ago.