

## **Biography of Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia Leader Hugh Taft-Morales**

Born and raised in Connecticut, Taft-Morales graduated with a B.A. cum laude in American History from Yale University, 1979, and an M.A. in Philosophy from the University of Kent at Canterbury, England, 1986. He completed a certificate program in Humanist leadership at the Humanist Institute in 2009, and became a Certified Leader (Clergy person) in Ethical Culture in 2010.

Although Taft-Morales was raised in a secular environment, his great-grandfather William Howard Taft, a Unitarian, was the only US President to serve as president of a religious organization, the General Conference of Unitarian Churches from 1915-1925.

Prior to becoming an Ethical Leader, Taft-Morales taught philosophy and history for twenty-five years in Washington, D.C. independent schools where he created secondary-level courses in ethics and in the history of public service, organized and led social service and diversity programs, and contributed leadership to the advancement of pre-college philosophy through the American Philosophical Association. In the mid-1990's he became involved in Ethical Culture, serving the Washington Ethical Society as board member 2003-2006, the last year as President, and as Director of the Coming of Age Program from 2009-2011, a program designed to build positive parent-child relationships and nurture maturation of young teens.

In addition to Philadelphia, he serves as Leader of the Baltimore Ethical Society, as faculty member of the 2012 AEU Lay Leadership Summer School, and as Secretary of the National Leaders Council of the American Ethical Union. He lives in Takoma Park, Maryland with his wife Maureen, a Latin American analyst for the Congressional Research Service, and their three children, Sean, Maya, and Justin.