



SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

Our UU Principles

I cannot accept the idea that true religion ever asks us to turn off our moral judgment and critical intelligence.

– *Rabbi Harold S. Kushner*

If we agree in love, there is no disagreement that can do us any injury, but if we do not, no other agreement can do us any good.

Let us endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace.

- *Hosea Ballou, Singing the Living Tradition Hymnal #705*

Opening and Chalice Lighting

Our Unitarian heritage bids us light our chalice

In the name of freedom,

In the light of reason,

In actions of tolerance.

We gather in community to celebrate a heritage of freedom, reason, and tolerance.

Our Universalist heritage bids us light our chalice

In the name of faith,

In the light of hope,

In actions of love.

We gather in community to celebrate a heritage of faith, hope, and love.

Let us bring this Unitarian Universalist heritage into our world and our lives today.

- *Elizabeth M. Strong (from UUA Worship Web)*

Quiet Reflection

The first duty of love is to listen.

- *Paul Tillich (1886-1965)*

Sharing/ Check-In

Take two or three minutes to share how you are spiritually, psychologically, emotionally, and physically. You can speak or you can pass. We want to know how you are in this moment.

Topic Reading

Read the UU Principles round-the-circle by line:

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;

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- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Listening

Listen to the handout "Reading Our Unitarian Universalist Principles as an 'Integrated Whole'"

Break/Quiet Contemplation

I searched for God and found only myself.
I searched for myself and found only God.
- *Sufi Proverb*

There is not one big cosmic meaning for all. There is only the meaning we all give to our lives, an individual meaning.
- *Anais Nin*

The highest truth cannot be put into words. Therefore the greatest teacher has nothing to say. He simply gives himself in service and never worries.
- *Lao Tzu*

When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.
- *John Muir*

I am only one.
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But still I can do something.
And because I cannot do everything,
I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.
- *Edward Everett Hale, Singing the Living Tradition Hymnal #457,*

Sharing/Deep Listening

Speak about this topic in any way that is comfortable to you. If you choose to use the questions, focus on just one or two, as this will allow you to go deeper into the topic.

- What are your thoughts on the UU principles? Which one(s) are most important to you?
- Do you practice UU principles in your daily life? Which ones? Do you see conflicts among the principles? How do you reconcile these?
- Do you see each of the principles as separate or as part of an interdependent whole? How do you feel about the Rev. Manly and the Rev. Crane's views on our Principles?

Discussion

This is a time to supportively respond to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared.

Checkout/ Likes & Wishes

What did you like about this meeting? What would you like to see change at future meetings?

**Closing Reading/
Extinguish Chalice**

Walk softly.
Speak truthfully.
Love gently.
Breathe deeply.
Live wisely.
Go in peace.

*- Elaine Gallagher Gehrman, 1997 UUMA Worship Materials Collection
(from UUA Worship Web)*