

SOCIAL JUSTICE PASSIONS (adapted from Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene, OR)

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING:

May our time together bring learning, understanding, compassion, encouragement, and hope as we share about our life journeys and passions.

PURPOSE: We come together to build connections and to talk about what deeply matters.

CHECK IN: What you share may be about your physical or spiritual health, cares or concerns for loved ones, issues you are facing. What are you leaving behind to be here today?

READING OF GROUP COVENANT

FOCUS: Social Justice Passions. Each person in the group speaks uninterrupted; if time remains, general response and conversation are welcome.

We covenant to affirm and promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

-Unitarian Universalist Second Principle

A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. On the one hand, we are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside, but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho Road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

My life is my message.

-Gandhi

Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare social justice can never be attained.

-Helen Keller

Love cannot remain by itself – it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action and that action is service. Whatever form we are, able or disabled, rich or poor, it is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing ...

-Mother Teresa

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 something that I can do.

-Edward Everett Hale

Questions for Discussion:

1. What was a time that you strongly felt inequity or injustice, either for yourself or others? How did you address it?
2. How might you address it now?
3. What social justice issues are you most passionate about, and how did you develop those passions?
4. In what ways have you tried to live out those passions?

CONFIDENTIALITY CHECK: Is there anything that you shared here today that you would like held confidential? Otherwise, this is a reminder that we treat each other's sharing with kindness and respect.

CLOSING WORDS: Go in peace. Live simply, gently, at home in yourselves.

Act justly. Speak justly.

Remember the depth of your own compassion.