

EXPLORING ALL SOULS SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

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

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING:

We come together in an attitude of openness – not knowing quite what will happen, yet daring to receive a new idea, a new experience, sustenance for our minds and our hearts.

-adapted from Peter Lee Scott

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

CHECK IN: This Small Group is simply an opportunity for us to get to know one another while sharing our experiences about social justice.

READING OF GROUP COVENANT: We will be here for about 60 minutes and, while here, we will abide by a set of agreed upon ground rules (called a Covenant). For the sake of time, here are the proposed ground rules (covenant):

1. We will practice deep listening. This means we will simply listen when another talks without “cross talk” (commenting, interrupting, negating, or giving advice).
2. We will share the time equally and fairly.
3. We will share our reflections from our own personal experiences.

Will you agree to abide by these ground rules (covenant) while we are here this morning?

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.