

THE BUCKET LIST (adapted from the session developed by Peter Bowden)

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING:

To Risk

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.

To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.

To reach out for another is to risk exposing our true self.

To place our ideas – our dreams – before the crowd is to risk loss.

To love is to risk not being loved in return.

To hope is to risk despair. To try is to risk failure.

To live is to risk dying.

#658, Singing the Living Tradition

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: The Bucket List

Each person in the group speaks uninterrupted; if time remains, general response and conversation are welcome.

Background for this session:

In the movie *“The Bucket List”*, a billionaire played by Jack Nicholson and a mechanic played by Morgan Freeman befriend each other in the hospital as they discover they each have only 6 months to a year to live. Freeman has a “bucket list” – things he wants to do before he “kicks the bucket”. Nicholson offers to finance the adventure and the two of them head off to tackle a joint “bucket list”.

Questions for reflection: In this movie the two main characters are in a unique situation – they know when they will die, more or less, and they have the means to live their final days as they wish. Most of us will not know when we are going to die, not to mention having the billions to play with!

1. If it was possible to find out the exact moment of your death, would you want to know?
2. Would knowing when you are going to die change how you live your life? If so, in what way?
3. Making a bucket list brings attention to our mortality. Some might say this is depressing. Others might say that being aware of how fleeting life is helps us make the most of it. Not knowing when you will die, if you were to make a bucket list for the remainder of your lifetime, what would some of the top items be?
4. How would your list be different if you had a billionaire friend to help you finance your bucket list?

CONFIDENTIALITY CHECK AND CHECK OUT: 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:

We clasp the hands of those that go before us, and the hands of those who come after us

We enter the little circle of each other’s arms, and the larger circle of lovers, whose hands are joined in a dance

And the larger circle of all creatures, passing in and out of life, who move also in a dance

To a music so subtle and vast that no ear hears it, except in fragments.

646, Singing the Living Tradition, Wendell Berry