

Youth Group Small Group Ministry (March 8, 2015)

Topic: Counterculture and Its Impact (topic by Lily Morris-Love)

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Opening Words & Chalice Lighting

Counterculture: A subculture whose values and norms of behavior differ substantially from those of mainstream society, often in opposition to mainstream cultural norms. When their ideas reach critical mass they can trigger dramatic cultural changes. – definition from Wikipedia

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

Reading of Group Covenant

Golden rule: Treat others how you want to be treated

Respect each other

No side talking

No phones except for time check

Don't take someone else's seat if they called 5's

Get outside together

When someone is breaking the Covenant, we'll say "Dharma."

Check-In: Each person shares how they are doing.

Activity: Match a historical countercultural movement from the left column with a description from the right column. (10 minutes.)

Bohemianism	A very recent movement that protests against social and economic inequality, greed, corruption and the perceived undue influence of corporations on government—particularly from the financial services sector. Their slogan, "We are the 99%", refers to income inequality and wealth distribution in the U.S. between the wealthiest 1% and the rest of the population. The first protest to receive widespread attention was in New York City which began on September 17, 2011, but protests spread to cities across the U.S. and world.
Hippie Counterculture	This subculture was lead by a group of American post-World War II writers, including Allen Gingburg and Jack Kerouac, who came to prominence in the 1950s. Central elements of this subculture include rejection of received standards and of materialism.
The Occupy Movement	From 1850-1910, describes the non-traditional lifestyles of marginalized and impoverished artists, writers, journalists, musicians, and actors in major European cities. The lifestyle was associated with frugality, and—in some cases—voluntary poverty.
Beat Generation	This countercultural movement refers to an anti-establishment phenomenon of the early 1960s to the mid-1970s. The movement gained momentum in opposition to the Vietnam war and in support of the Civil Rights movement.

Questions

- ⤴ Have you ever valued something or believed something that you feel most of your peers do not value or believe? If so, what's that like for you?
- ⤴ Do you believe that there are any countercultural movements happening in the world today? If so, what do they stand for/against?
- ⤴ Do you think that any UU principles count as countercultural ideas? If so, can you give an example?

Check-Out & Confidentiality Check: Is there anything that you shared here today that you would like to be held confidential? Otherwise this is a reminder that we treat each others' sharing with kindness and respect.

Closing: "Poetry is not an expression of the party line. It's that time of night, lying in bed, thinking what you really think, making the private world public, that's what the poet does." -- Allen Ginsberg, Beat poet

"Revolution is not something fixed in ideology, nor is it something fashioned to a particular decade. It is a perpetual process embedded in the human spirit."

-- Abbie Hoffman, American political and social activist who co-founded the Youth International Party ("Yippies").