

Month: September 2018

Theme: UU Principles

Source: <http://www.smallgroupministry.net/public/sessions/index.html#sessions> **Our Principles**

Opening Words

Each of us brings a separate truth here, we bring the truth of our own life, our own story. We don't come as empty vessels, but rather we come as full people, people who have our own story and our own truth. We seek to add to our truths and add to our stories. This room is rich with truth, rich with experience. All manner of people are here: needy, joyful, frightened, anxious, bored. We all bring our truth with us. May we all recognize the truth and the story in everyone's life. And may we hear and honor the truths that we all bring as we gather together. Together we have truths. Together we have a story. Together we are a community."

-Rev. Penny Hackett-Evans, Unitarian Universalist Community Minister

Focus Reading

The Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association that the member congregations covenant to affirm and promote.

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

At the descriptive level, certainly, you would expect different cultures to develop different sorts of ethics and obviously they have; that doesn't mean that you can't think of overarching ethical principles you would want people to follow in all kinds of places. -Peter Singer, Australian moral philosopher

There are ultimately only two possible adjustments to life: one is to suit our lives to principles; the other is to suit principles to our lives. If we do not live as we think, we soon begin to think as we live. -Fulton J. Sheen, American Catholic bishop

Nature is at work. Character and destiny are her handiwork. She gives us love and hate, jealousy and reverence. All that is ours is the power to choose which impulse we shall follow.

Focus Questions

1. Which of the UU Principles particularly resonate with you?
2. What other principles or values are important to you?
3. Share about times when it has been challenging to follow principles or values that are important to you.

Closing Words

Our time in this place may have ended, but our connection to each other and this community remains. Together may we walk the path of justice, speak words of love, live the selfless deed, tread gently upon the earth, and fill the world with compassion.

-Rev. Kathy A. Huff, Unitarian Universalist minister

Go in Peace