

Month: February 2019

Topic: (Global Living) Transylvania and India

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

**Opening Words & Chalice Lighting: Responsive Reading**

Attributed to Chief Seattle

This we know. The earth does not belong to us; we belong to the earth.

THIS WE KNOW. ALL THINGS ARE CONNECTED LIKE THE BLOOD WHICH UNITES ONE FAMILY.

All things are connected.

WHATEVER BEFALLS THE EARTH BEFALLS THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE EARTH.

We did not weave the web of life; we are merely a strand in it.

WHATEVER WE DO TO THE WEB, WE DO TO OURSELVES

**Focus Reading:** "Building the case for global living", by Jim Merkel

Imagine you are at a potluck buffet and see that you are the first in line. How do you know how much to take? Imagine that this potluck spread includes not just food and water, but also the materials needed for shelter, clothing, healthcare and education. It all looks and smells so good and you are hungry. What will you heap on your plate? How much is enough to leave for your neighbors behind you in the line? Now extend this cornucopia to today's global economy, where the necessities for life come from around the world. Six [and a half] billion people, shoulder to shoulder, form a line that circles around the globe... With plates in hand, they too wait in line, hearty appetites in place. And along with them are giraffes and klipspringers, manatees and spiders, untold millions of species, millions of billions of unique beings, all with the same lusty appetites. And behind them, the soon-to-be-born children, cubs, and larvae.

A harmonious feast just might be possible. But it requires a bit of restraint, or shall we say, a tamed appetite, as our plate becomes a shopping cart, becomes a pickup truck – filling our home, attic, basement, garage, and maybe even a rented storage unit with nature transformed into things. As we sit down for a good hearty meal with new friends and creatures from around the world, what is the level of equity that we would feel good about? At what level of inequity would we say, "Wait a minute, that's not fair?"

Source: Radical Simplicity, by Jim Merkel

**Focus Questions:**

What is the level of equity that you would feel good about?

At what level of inequity would you be willing to reduce your own helping?

- How does this relate to the UU principles, in particular:  
Justice, equity and compassion in human relations  
Respect for the interdependent web of existence, of which we are a part  
What is one word or phrase that best describes what you hope to carry forward from this session?  
What is one way that you can increase your awareness of the interdependent world in your daily life?  
By Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley

**Closing Words:** Responsive Reading

If, recognizing the interdependence of all life, we strive to build community, the strength we gather will be our salvation

If you are black and I am white,

IT WILL NOT MATTER.

If you are female and I am male,

IT WILL NOT MATTER.

If you are older and I am younger,

IT WILL NOT MATTER.

If you are progressive and I am conservative,

IT WILL NOT MATTER.

If you are straight and I am gay,

IT WILL NOT MATTER.

If you are Christian and I am Jewish, or Muslim, or...

IT WILL NOT MATTER. If we join spirits as brothers and sisters, the pain of our aloneness will be lessened, and that does matter.

IN THIS SPIRIT, WE BUILD COMMUNITY AND MOVE TOWARD RESTORATION **Go in Peace**

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