

## **FAILURE**

Bob Dorroh, Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, LA

**OPENING WORDS:** 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. We come with an attitude of praise, expressing our thankfulness for the good which has come into our lives. We come with an attitude of humility, knowing how much we need one another, how alone we can be in the world, how vulnerable if we face life solely by ourselves. We come in the spirit of love, seeking human warmth and fellowship in the hands and faces of those around us. We come in the spirit of joy, seeking reconfirmation and renewal of life, of love, and of hope.

Adapted from Peter Lee Scott

**CHECKIN:** A brief account of something of personal significance

**TOPIC:** Surely we have all experienced failure or fear of failure. The small group ministry program is one of the few places where we can speak about something as heavy as this and expect an empathetic reception. The following words of Tom Hopkins may be comforting.

*“I am not judged by the number of times I fail, but by the number of times I succeed; and the number of times I succeed is in direct proportion to the number of times I can fail and keep on trying.”*

### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

- (a) Have you ever realized that you might fail in a way that would have serious consequences for you? What was it like? What did you do?
- (b) Have you ever experienced an actual failure that had serious consequences for you? What was it like? What did you do? How did other people react toward you?

### **CLOSING WORDS:**

Take courage friends.  
The way is often hard,  
The path is never clear,  
And the stakes are very high.  
Take courage. For deep down,  
There is another truth:  
You are not alone.

Wayne Arnason, *Singing the Living Tradition* #698