



SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website

## Failure

Starr King UU Church, Hayward, CA, Bev Powell

Wednesday afternoon group

12 Noon – 2 PM, October 25, 2017

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Success is going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.

– *Winston Churchill*

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**Opening and  
Chalice Lighting**  
(2 min)

You could have golden treasure buried beneath your feet, and walk over it again and again, yet never find it because you don't realize it is there. Just so, all beings live every moment in the city of the Divine, but never find the Divine because it is hidden by the well of illusion.

– *Chandogya Upanishad*

**Sharing/Check-In**  
(27 min – 3 min ea.)

*Take this time to share how you are spiritually, psychologically, emotionally, and physically. We want to know how you are in this moment.*

**Moment of Quiet**  
(1 min)

*Thinking first of another person, then of yourself, repeat these words silently to yourself to help create a moment of quiet:*

May you be happy. May you be peaceful.

May I be happy. May I be peaceful.

**Topic Readings**  
(10 min)

There is no failure. Only feedback. – *Anonymous*

Success is as dangerous as failure.

What does it mean that success is as dangerous as failure?

Whether you go up the ladder or down it,  
your position is shaky.

When you stand with your two feet on the ground,  
you will always keep your balance. – *Lao Tzu*

Failure is **not** an option. – *Gene Kranz (Flight Director of Gemini, Apollo, and Space Shuttle missions)*

Only those who do nothing make no mistakes. – *Anonymous*

Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently.  
– *Henry Ford*

To try is to risk failure. – *Anonymous*

So, you think you are a failure? Well, you probably are. What's wrong with that? In the first place, if you have any sense at all, you must have learned by now that we pay just as dearly for our triumphs as we do for our defeats. Go ahead and fail. Embrace failure! Seek it out! Learn to love it. That may be the only way any of us will ever be free. – *Tom Robbins, in **Even***

## *Cowgirls Get the Blues*

We learn from failure, not from success. – *Bram Stoker*

Failure is not the opposite of success, it is part of success. – *Anonymous*

Failure is an event, not a person. Yesterday ended last night. – *Zig Ziglar*

**Break/ Quiet  
Contemplation** (5 min)  
**Sharing/Deep  
Listening**  
(45 min – 5 min ea.)

*Speak about this topic in any way that is comfortable to you. If you choose to use the questions, focus on just one or two, as this will allow you to explore the topic in more depth.*

- In what ways or what areas is it important to you to be successful?
- Do you feel that you have had failures that later contributed to success of some kind?
- How important is success in our society?
- Is Tom Robbins right that failing is a way to be free?
- Do you have fears about failure or failures in certain areas of your life?
- How has success – or failure – provided you with new opportunities or personal growth experiences you would not otherwise have had?

**Open Reflection**  
(15 min)

*This is a time to supportively respond to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared. Please try to respond to others without judgment. In your comments and thoughts, attempt to include everyone in the conversation.*

**Service Project**  
(8 min)  
**Likes & Wishes**  
(5 min)

*We can discuss the plan for the November 12 Sunday Coffee service.*

*What did you appreciate about today's session– in yourself, in others, in the gathering as a whole? What would you like to see change in the future?*

**Announcements** (1 min) Next session: Wednesday November 8, 2017 – **Pride**

**Closing Words/  
Extinguish the Chalice**  
(1 min)

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*