

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
SMALL GROUP MINISTRY
Feelings about the Religious Right (and our Political Situation)
Main Line Unitarian Church, Devon, PA

Opening Words & Chalice Lighting:

“The years of all of us are short, our lives precarious. Our days and nights go hurrying on and there is scarcely time to do the little that we might. Yet we find time for bitterness, for petty treason and evasion. What can we do to stretch our hearts enough to lose their littleness? Here we are—all of us—all upon this planet, bound together in a common destiny, living our lives between the briefness of the daylight and the dark. Kindred in this, each lighted by the same precarious, flickering flame of life, how does it happen that we are not kindred in all things else? How strange and foolish are these walls of separation that divide us!”

~ A. Powell Davies, Unitarian minister

Check-In / Sharing: What’s on your mind today?

Focus Readings:

“Throughout the 1980’s, religious conservatives have gained credibility in politics asserting their religious values should be incorporated into public policy development to the exclusion of other faith traditions. Their influence has only increased with the election of President George W. Bush in the 2000 election and again in 2004. Their vision for the United States—indeed the world—is one that results in oppression, discrimination, and domination, reserving power for a small number of government and business elites. As the gap between rich and poor expands in the United States and the ill effects of globalization intensify, the exclusion of religious liberals from this civic dialogue is dangerous.”

~ *Proposed Study Resolution S5 Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society to be voted on at the 2005 UUA General Assembly.*

“Since November 2, 2000 our former Republic has slowly morphed into a vicious fascist theocracy, one powerful party of corporate and personal wealth and privilege controlled by a radical right-wing religious cult.”

~ *The President’s State of the Union Speech: The Christo-Fascists Have Just Begun—A Declaration of War on Reality-Based Americans by Bob Nichols and Nancy Fuller-Hines, March 1, 2005.*

“Talking to the opposition may be the last thing you want to do. But to tackle long-term issues like health care and the war on terrorism, America must figure out how to reach a consensus.... ‘We need to be able to listen to each other....’ How do you heal a polarized society, especially when politicians exploit our differences to their advantage?”

~ *Seven Ways to Fight Those Post-Election Blues by Julie Hinds, Knight Ridder Newspapers*

“As a community of liberal faith and equally liberal doubt, we have an historic opportunity to engage in interfaith and cross-cultural dialogue to discern a core morality that would bend the arc of our current moral universe toward compassionate justice in our pluralistic global society.”

~ *Proposed Study Resolution S5 Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society to be voted on at the 2005 UUA General Assembly.*

Focus Questions:

1. How do you feel about the Religious Right and their influence?
2. What are your experiences with Christian Evangelicals?
3. What are your experiences of intolerance by religious liberals?
4. What concerns you most about the political situation in our country?
5. What have you done to make things better?
6. What gives you hope for the future of our country and world?

Check-out /Likes & Wishes: How are you feeling after this session?

Closing Words & Extinguishing Chalice:

“Theodore Parker, the 19th century Unitarian minister, proclaimed, ‘I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one.... And from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice.’”

~ Proposed Study Resolution S5 Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society to be voted on at the 2005 UUA General Assembly.