

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website  
SMALL GROUP MINISTRY  
Main Line Unitarian Church, Devon, PA  
**Feelings about Terrorism, War, and Government Process**

**Opening Words and Chalice Lighting:**

“They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid.”

~ *Micah 4:3*

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

**Focus Reading:**

Feelings about Terrorism, War, and Government Process

“I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.

A true revolution of values will lay hand on the world order and say of war, “This way of settling differences is not just.” A nation that continues year and year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.

America, the richest and most powerful nation in the world, can well lead the way in this revolution of values. There is nothing except a tragic death wish to prevent us from reordering our priorities over the pursuit of war.

This call for worldwide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one’s tribe, clan, race class, and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing and unconditional love for all mankind. We can no longer afford to worship the God of hate or bow before the altar of retaliation. The oceans of history are made turbulent by the ever-rising tides of hate. History is cluttered with the wreckage of nations and individuals that pursued this self-defeating path of hate.

We still have a choice today; nonviolent coexistence or violent co-annihilation. We must move past indecision to action. If we do not act, we shall surely be dragged down the long, dark, and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight.

Now let us begin. Now let us rededicate ourselves in the long and bitter, but beautiful struggle for a new world. If we will but make the right choice, we will be able to speed up the day, all over American and all over the world, when justice will roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

May our country, on the brink of war, take to heart the final refrain of ‘America, the Beautiful:’ ‘America! America! God mend thine ev’ry flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.’”

~ *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Riverside Church, New York City, April 4, 1967*

### **Focus Questions:**

1. How do you feel about the possibility of terrorism here?
2. Do you think it will happen?
3. What do you think of our War on Terrorism?
4. What do you think about invading Iraq?
5. What do you think about our government's process?
6. How does it 'make you feel?'
7. How do you manage those feelings?
8. Do you see any signs of hope?

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

### **Closing Words and Extinguishing Chalice:**

“If someone with courage and vision can rise to lead in nonviolent action, the winter of despair can, in the twinkling of an eye, be turned into the summer of hope.

*It is possible to live in peace.*

Nonviolence is not a garment to put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart, and it must be an inseparable part of our being.

*It is possible to live in peace.*

Nonviolence, which is a quality of the heart, cannot come by appeal to the brain. It is a plant of slow growth, growing imperceptibly, but surely.

*It is possible to live in peace.*

If a single person achieves the highest kind of love it will be sufficient to neutralize the hate of millions.

*It is possible to live in peace.*

If we are to reach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.

*It is possible to live in peace.*

The future depends on what we do in the present.

*It is possible to live in peace.*

~ Mohandas K. Gandhi