

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website

Sapere Aude Session Plan for March 10, 2010

“Humanism and the Congregation’s Mission Statement”

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, Vermont. Prepared by Adam Bortz

Note: A congregation can substitute its own mission statement in place of FUUSB statement.

Welcome and Chalice Lighting

“Who is the owner of a congregation? The “owner” that the Board must serve is the congregation's mission.”

Source: *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership* by Dan Hotchkiss

Brief Check-ins: Limit to 3 minutes if more than 6 persons present.

Opening Reading –

“The mission, like stockholders in a business, has the moral right both to control the congregation's actions and to benefit from them. Like the Board, each member has a duty to make sure the congregation serves its mission... even if it goes against the member's private preferences or wishes.”

Source: *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership* by Dan Hotchkiss

A Silent Moment....

Main Subject: FUUSB Mission Statement is:

**“We gather to inspire spiritual growth,
care for each other and our community,
seek truth
and act for justice.”**

1. Do you agree that our Mission Statement should be used as our guide?
2. How does each of the parts of the Mission Statement affect you?
3. How could you act upon each of them as a humanist?
4. How do you feel about putting the Mission Statement above your private preferences?

Individual communing: 6 minutes per individual, 3 minutes of group response.

Open Discussion (facilitated by Adam)

Business:

Next meeting location: FUUSB March 24, 2010

Meeting Plan author: _____

Closing

“Growth, expanding budgets, building programs, and such trappings of success matter only if they reflect positive transformation in the lives of the people touched by the congregation's work.”

Source: *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership* by Dan Hotchkiss