

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
"Learning From Failure"
Covenant Group Curriculum, River of Grass Unitarian Universalist
Congregation, Davie, FL

Opening Meditation/Music/Silence/Chalice Lighting (whichever one(s) you choose to do)

Opening Words:

"Whether or not we soften the sense of "sinners" to what Eugene Kennedy calls "mistake makers", the fact remains we are not and never can be perfect. This is not to say we are condemned to making the same mistakes over and over. If we learn from past mistakes, we shall have the joy and sorrow of making some entirely new ones and learning from them as well. That is learning. That is growth. That is what being alive is all about."

- Glenn Turner

Check-in/Sharing

Topic/Reading:

"Failure is what we're all running from, we're always running toward success with failure at our back. And actually, which one of us has never failed or never been disappointed or betrayed? What I learned to do was to step back and enter the heart of failure. There are a lot of jewels there for awakening."

- Natalie Goldberg

Failing is one of the best tutors in career development. Consider the story of a new bank president who went to meet his predecessor. Upon being introduced he quickly said, "I would like to know what have been the keys to your success." The older man looked at him for a moment and replied, "Young man, I can sum it up in two words: Good decisions." To that the young man replied, "I thank you immensely for that advice, sir, but how does one come to know which are the good decisions?" "One word, young man," replied the old man. "Experience." "That's all good and well," said the young executive, "but how does one get experience?" "Two words," replied the old man, "Bad decisions."

If you really want to succeed, be prepared to grow into it. Lose your fear of failure and risk doing something that's important to you.

- Lou Stoops

Questions for consideration:

Failure is a weird thing: no one intentionally seeks it, but everyone does it. What has failure taught you in your life? In your work, family, religious community, what are the attitudes around failure? When you fail at something, what's the first thing you feel? What moves you beyond failure?

Likes and Wishes/Feedback

Closing Words:

“I would rather suffer a hundred failures than count myself among those timid souls who never know great success nor failure because they never tried.

- *Teddy Roosevelt*

Amen. May you go in peace. May you live in blessing.