

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
SMALL GROUP SESSION
LIFE STAGES 3: INTO OUR OWN - THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING ADULTS -
By the Rev. Glenn H. Turner

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING:

I live my life in growing orbits,
which move out over the things of the world.
Perhaps I can never achieve the last,
but that will be my attempt.

I am circling around God, around the ancient tower,
and I have been circling for a thousand years,
and I still don't know if I am a falcon, or a storm,
or a great song.

Rainer Maria Rilke - trans. by Robert Bly

CHECK IN: (40 - 50 minutes)

What you share may be about your physical or spiritual health, cares or concerns for loved ones, issues you are facing.

Each person in the group speaks uninterrupted, if time remaining, general response and conversation is welcome. Confidentiality.

FOCUS: Into Our Own

“Forty is the old age of youth; fifty is the youth of old age.”

“Well, here I am at thirty-eight,
Well, I certainly thought I'd have longer to wait.
You just stop in for a couple of beers,
And gosh, there go thirty-seven years.
Well, it certainly has been fun,
But, I certainly thought I'd have got a lot more done...”

- Ogden Nash -

We're all into this adult thing - except for the spread in ages and stages - each with their challenges and regrets, puzzlements, and wisdom. What have we gotten done? Where are we going? What haven't we done that we'd like to have done? What's the nature of accomplishment for us? Is it work, family, creativity, inner peace, character? Does that change for us over time?

(Lets take about 5 minutes to jot down some of what we'd like to share.)

LIKES AND WISHES

How did this session go for you? Is there anything you'd like to call particular attention to?

CLOSING WORDS:

i am running into a new year
and the old years blow back
like a wind
that i catch in my hair
like strong fingers like
all my old promises and

it will be hard to let go
of what i said to myself
about myself
when i was sixteen and
twenty six and thirtysix
even thirtysix but
i am running into a new year
and i beg what i love and
i leave to forgive me

- Lucille Clifton -