

One Sentence, Just Six Words

Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of La Crosse, WI (R. Haines, January 2013)

Candle Lighting and Opening Words: “You know my race. NOT ME!” “Chinese or American? Does it matter?” “I’m only the color you make me.” “Just wondering, what color is human?” “Still more work to be done.”

Check-in: What you share may be about your physical or spiritual health, cares or concerns for loved ones, or issues you are facing. Permit each person in the group to speak uninterrupted. If time permits, general response and conversation is welcome after each has spoken. Confidentiality is expected.

Focus

February is Black History Month. Perhaps we honor it best by living in accordance with the UU Principles, especially the first two. They are:

We, as a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

Let us apply those principles equally to persons of all races, ethnicities, origins or whatever else may identify a person.

NPR host Michele Norris mailed 200 post cards asking people to express their thoughts on race in just six words. In her words, “I asked people to think about their *experiences, questions, hopes, dreams, laments* or *observations* about race and identity. Then, I asked that they take those thoughts and distill them to just one sentence that had only six words. The result started a project.” Samples are quoted in the opening words. To explore that project, search, “**Race Card Project**” on Google or another search engine. One fine article is at <http://michele-norris.com/theracecard/the-race-card-project-minneapolis/>. Sample the material and select something to share with the rest of us. Share your thoughts, too, if you will.

Let these four topics suggest but not dictate what you share with us. Do not feel compelled to respond to all four. You may ignore the suggestions and offer your own thoughts as you think appropriate to the subject and this group.

1. Your favorite six words from what you read
2. Your own six words about race or other bigotry
3. A lesson from your reading and reflection
4. A story or experience that relates to race, discrimination, or bigotry

Closing Words

Please recite together:

We, as a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.