

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network
Small Group Ministry Session

Taking a Stand

By Mark Cobb, Emerson UU, Marietta, GA, 10-18-11

Opening Words:

“Let me keep the doors of my mind open for the possible knock of some vagrant truth. Let me swing wide the shuttered windows of my heart that perchance some winged messenger of love light upon my sill.”

-Clinton Lee Scott (1887–1985, Universalist)

Check-in: Share briefly with the group: How is your heart today?

Focus/Topic: *Taking a Stand*

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. What I can do, I should do."

- Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909, Unitarian)

Our principles and our UU heritage call for us to act on our principles. We may take a stand for justice and peace in the world, or in some very small part of it. We may take a stand for our own rights or to defend another.

When we choose not to take a stand on something we believe in, we may regret it, or may believe it was the right decision under the circumstances.

Questions:

1. Please tell about a time when you took a stand on something, perhaps including whether this was difficult, and how you felt about doing it.
2. Can you tell about a time you missed a chance to take a stand, and whether you regretted it or not?
3. Is there something in your life now about which you would like to take a stand? How will you make the decision to do so or not?

Likes & Wishes

Closing Words:

"Cautious, careful people, always casting about to preserve their reputation and social standing, never can bring about a reform. Those who are really in earnest must be willing to be anything or nothing in the world's estimation, and publicly and privately, in season and out, avow their sympathy with despised and persecuted ideas and their advocates, and bear the consequences."