

UU Small Group Ministry Network Website

To Live and Love Deliberately

First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, Delaware, by Rev. Michelle Collins, 2013

Chalice Lighting (author unknown)

We are not asked to look at the light.

We are asked to look at, and love, the world that this light illumines.

Check In

Where have you experienced love in your life recently?

Where have you felt a need for more love?

Reading: by Henry David Thoreau

Why should we live in such a hurry and waste of life?

We are determined to be starved before we are hungry.

I wish to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life.

I wish to learn what life has to reach, and not, when I come to die, discover that I have not lived.

I do not wish to live what is not life, living is so dear,

Nor do I wish to practice resignation, unless it is quite necessary.

I wish to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life,

I want to cut a broad swath, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms.

If it proves to be mean, then to get the whole and genuine meanness of it, and publish its meanness to the world;

Or if it is sublime, to know it by experience, and to be able to give a true account of it.

Discussion & Sharing Questions:

- What does it mean to live deliberately? What does it take to live this way, in your life and in our world today?
- What does it mean to love deliberately? Why does love sometimes work but not at other times? How much of love is intentional or deliberate?
- When have you experienced deliberate love, when have you experienced love that was not deliberate?
- Can you think of any ways that living deliberately leads to loving deliberately?
- Are there any relationships in your life now where you could grow or change in loving deliberately?

Closing Thoughts

Extinguishing the Chalice