

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website  
Small Group Ministry Session  
***Unitarian Universalism Elevator Speech***  
*First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, Fort Worth, TX, By Laurie Mikitka*  
*September 26, 2012*

**Opening Words and Chalice Lighting:**

Blessed is the fire that burns deep in the soul. It is the flame of the human spirit touched into being by the mystery of life. It is the fire of reason; the fire of compassion; the fire of community; the fire of justice; the fire of faith. It is the fire of love burning deep in the human heart; the divine glow in every life.

Eric A. Heller-Wagner

<http://www.uua.org/worship/words/chalice/submissions/56490.shtml>

**Check-in** How are you?

**Focus/Topic:**

*Unitarian Universalism Elevator Speech*

From Urban Dictionary: <http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=elevator+speech>

Elevator Speech:

An extremely pithy description of something, prepared in advance to be used in situations where time is of the essence. The term comes from the hypothetical situation of somebody seeing a pin or something similar on your person that arouses their curiosity while in an elevator (such as a Unitarian Universalist chalice pin), and then asking you what exactly the pin stands for. Because Unitarian Universalism would be rather difficult to explain in the remaining duration of the elevator ride, the prepared elevator speech serves to provide as best of an answer as possible in the available time.

*Getting Serious About Unitarian Universalism* – Scott Alexander

<http://www.uua.org/worship/words/sermons/submissions/183412.shtml>

I find myself increasingly compelled by life's vast spiritual questions and pressing ethical demands. ... I believe with all my heart and soul this troubled world desperately needs the compassionate and saving vision of Unitarian Universalism.

To be a UU is to spend a *lifetime* seeking reality and truth, and to live in this world in an ethical and principled way.

Unitarian Universalism does not give you freedom *from* religion; it gives you freedom *for* religion. Here is the great paradox of our faith.

Being a UU does not give you freedom “to believe anything you want;” it gives you rather the freedom to search for and find those beliefs from which your heart and soul cannot escape!

Although a few UUs get stuck spiritually by wallowing in *negative rebellion* from their religious pasts, most sooner or later begin *using* the freedom that comes with being a UU to get serious about discovering what they *do* believe, finding the ethical and moral principles that inform their living, and engaging in spiritual practices that feed their souls and energize them for careful, responsible living.

**Questions:**

1. What does it mean to you to be UU?
2. How do you explain your faith to others?

**Likes & Wishes**

What did you like about this session? What didn't you like? What would you change?

**Closing Words:**

We extinguish the chalice here that it might glow gently in our hearts. May it light your path as you leave this place. May it guide your way until we are together again.

Martha L. Munson

<http://www.uua.org/worship/words/closings/submissions/6049.shtml>