

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
Small Group Ministry Session
Will Creation for Parents of Young Children
UU Fellowship of Athens, Georgia, January 6, 2016

Opening Words:

“Death ends a life, not a relationship.” ~ Mitch Albom
“The best way to achieve any goal is to have a written plan.
A goal that isn’t written down is just a dream.” ~ Dave Ramsey

Check-in

Focus/Topic: *Will Creation for Parents of Young Children*

Managing young children frequently means less time for keeping up with paperwork, but creating a will is considered one of the most-important tasks often neglected by parents of young children.

“We can’t decide on guardians for the kids” is, by far, the number one thing that holds up parents of young children on their way to the attorney’s office to get their wills and guardianship nominations done. I’ve had people tell me that their solution was to just wait until the kids turned 18 to do any sort of planning so they wouldn’t have to make that decision. That’s some commitment to indecision! The good news is, the state has a plan for your children and your money if something happens to you and you haven’t named guardians. The bad news is, the state has a plan for your children and your money if something happens to you and you haven’t named guardians.” ~ Leanna Hamill, Attorney at Law, P.C.

1. What factors are most important for you when selecting a guardian for your child(ren)?
2. What if the person who’d be the best overall for your child has genuine philosophical differences from you (e.g., they’re quietly homophobic, and you recognize that you can’t predict whether your young child may one day be gay)?
3. Have you planned for multiple scenarios that are possible in the short term (e.g., two parents both pass away, or one of two parents survives and later remarries)?
4. Whom do you consult with when thinking through these decisions?
5. How does money affect your decisions (if at all) (regarding guardian selection, back-up plans, and/or conversations with a potential guardian)?
6. How would you prepare your child(ren) to manage any money they may eventually inherit, especially since you won’t be around to coach them? (In many states, they get it all when they turn 18, unless otherwise specified.)
7. What’s some of the best advice you’ve heard about wills and estate planning that may or may not apply to your own situation?

Likes & Wishes

Closing Words:

We clasp the hands of those that go before us, And the hands of those who come after us. We enter the little circle of each other's arms And the larger circle of lovers, Whose hands are joined in a dance,	And the larger circle of all creatures, Passing in and out of life, Who move also in a dance, To a music so subtle and vast that no ear hears it Except in fragments.” ~ Wendell Berry, farmer and poet
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