

Community/Connections in the Search for Truth/Meaning:
CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS OF TRUTH AND MEANING, Jan. 2018

Need: writing paper, drawing paper, pens and markers, table space

Opening words:

Here in the middle of the seven Unitarian Universalist Principles is the fourth UU Principles--
The free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

The first Principle, the inherent worth and dignity of every person – including you and me. I have my values and ideas, and so do you. And your ideas and values and my ideas and values engage every time we meet! This is *individualism* – with the need for connections.

The seventh principle is being part of the interdependent web, or all of us are in this together. *Interdependence* is evident in our community.

We come as individuals, on our own spiritual journey for truth and meaning. In community, our search enriches our lives and the community itself. This is precisely what we are doing together now!

Covenant for this session:

We value our time together and revere each person is present. We share and we are silent to accept the sharing of others. We speak from our hearts and for ourselves only, without needing to respond or give advice. We hold our sharings in confidence within our circle.

Check-in/Sharing: Because the session today is an hour rather than the usual two hours, check-in will be brief. How is it with you today?

TOPIC: Creative Expression of Truth and Meaning

“It's Not Always Easy to be a UU Kid!” UUA REACH, Fall 2000, Rev. Anne Orfald, Excerpts.
My church taught me that Jesus was a good man and a good teacher, but he was not God. And my church taught me that there was no place called hell, where God sent those who were bad, to burn forever and ever. And my church taught me that God was not a person -- not a Father like so many believed, but that God was a spirit of Love, which is deep inside of us, like a bright light. Maybe sometimes that light is a bit dim, but it is in each of us, no matter what our religion. My church also taught me that we don't have all the answers -- not about God or the universe, or about life and death. I was taught that there are things we don't know for sure.

Well, when that's the kind of teaching you get, that we don't have all the answers and that there are some things we aren't certain about... it's not easy! It doesn't always feel lucky to be a UU kid. Have some of you had experiences like that? How does it feel for you? Even for adults, it isn't always easy.

1. Did you come to Unitarian Universalism as a child or later in life? How does this affect your approach to truth and meaning?
2. Express your search, such as in words or drawing? (15min.)

Share with the group. (1min. each)

Check-out/Likes and Wishes: How was the session for you? What are you taking with you?

Closing:

Believe nothing merely because you have been told it.

Do not believe what your teacher tells you merely out of respect for the teacher.

But whatever, after due examination and analysis,

you find to be kind, conducive to the good, the benefit, the welfare of all beings - that doctrine believe and cling to, and take it as your guide. –*Buddha*