

Call to Worship

On the mountaintops,
And in the valleys, as well,
Prepare our hearts
For the feast of loving-kindness
We are about to receive;
Let the words and music
In which we are about to partake
Nourish us in all the ways we have needed;
Let us be filled, once again,
And made ready to be instruments
Of peace, forged by justice,
In the work, play, and rest
That's before us today.
With all that we are,
Let us worship as one.

- Rev. Jake Morrill

Meditation

Moving Toward Justice, by Michael Tino

I want us to move in our meditation today.

Not physically—you can still your body as we prepare for silence.

I want us to move in metaphor.

To envision the body of humanity moving as one—

walking, crawling, rolling, marching, running.

Some of us will need help to move forward—an arm here, a walker there, a cane, a wheelchair, a scooter.

Some of us will need to be carried as we go.

Some of us will be able to offer an arm, to pick up a sibling, to push a wheelchair.

But we will all move together.

Forward, down the length of the arc of the universe.

Forward, toward justice. Forward, toward salvation.

May we move forward together as we pray, as we sit, as we sing, as we worship, as we breathe together now in silence for a time.

Answering the Call of Love

Sermon

Rev. Barbara F. Meyers

Report on General Assembly 2017 held June 20-25 in New Orleans

Stayed with UU Minister and her jazz musician husband in a house that was 8 feet under water during Hurricane Katrina

Ministry Days

- Time to reflect on recent events using non-violent communication methodology
 - Unmasking white supremacy in the UUA, Lives of UU calling for White Supremacy teach-in. 800 congregations participated
 - Resignations of UUA President Rev. Peter Morales and two top operational officers of the UUA
 - UUMA Executive Director Rev. Don Southworth resignation
 - Arrest of Rev. Ron Robinson on child pornography charges
 - Minister guilty of sexual misconduct threatens law suit to force redaction of his name from 2016 UUMA lecture
 - Death of UUA Moderator Jim Key
- Small Group Non-violent communication
 - What I observe / notice...
 - What I feel ...
 - What I need...
 - What I request ...
- Largely successful in making a place where difficult things could be discussed in an authentic way. Very impressive.

General Assembly

Addressing Oppression especially white supremacy culture – the overriding theme

- Presence of many African American UUs – as leaders, speakers, musicians, moderators, attendees. (see photo)
- Three co-presidents who took over for Peter Morales. Very much in evidence. (see photo) Dr. Leon Spencer, Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt, and Rev. William G. Sinkford. Largely pastoral presence.
- Black Lives of UU (see photo – award for voluntary service)
 - “White Supremacy” Teach-in at their request using their curricular materials
- Intersectional issues with Racism: Gender, Ableism

Ableism – Answering the Call of Love.

- Changing name of Standing on the Side of Love campaign
- Show two photos

Approved: Statement of Conscience on Escalating Economic Inequality. Specifying actions that individuals, congregations, legislative ministries and the denomination can take.

Changes to the Principles and Sources (In bylaws. UUA board to appoint commission to review Article II of bylaws. Takes a vote during at least 2 GA’s to be final.)

- 1st Principle Project
 - inherent worth and dignity of every person –
 - change people to “being” – Withdrawn

- Will find another way to honor animals within principles
- 8th Principle to be considered:
 - “journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”
- 2nd Source of wisdom: 1st year of consideration. Vote again next year
 - “Words and Deeds of prophetic women and men”
 - Changed to: “Words and Deeds of Prophetic people” (photo of Dawn)

Ware Lecture – Bryan Stevenson, founder and Executive Director of the [Equal Justice Initiative](#) in Montgomery, Alabama. Mr. Stevenson is a widely acclaimed public interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned. (show photo)

1. Get Proximate
2. Keep Hopeful
3. Change the Narrative
4. Get used to being uncomfortable – significant social change doesn’t happen unless some painful things happen.

New UU President: Susan Frederick-Gray (see photo)

UUA emerged from this difficult year stronger, more focused, more authentic, more ready to resist and take action.

Benediction

Go into the world knowing that we are all with you

Go knowing that you are more than enough

That you are worth it

Go knowing that this is not the end nor the beginning but the middle

Go knowing that this is your journey and you have the power to make it what you wish.

Amen

Hymns:

Answering the Call of Love

Life Calls Us On - Words: Kendyl Gibbons, Music: Jason Shelton, Copyright © 2010

1. Here in reverence now we gather
For the blessings we have known,
With a pledge to one another
That we journey not alone.
Joy and sorrow make us wise,
Kin to all that lives and dies;
Love calls us on, love calls us on.

2. Words and deeds of those before us
Waken here to keep us strong;
Blend our voices in the chorus
Of creation's living song.
Courage bids us lift our eyes
Upward to the shining skies;
Hope calls us on, hope calls us on.

3. Loyal guides in love and duty
Lead us with a trusted light;
Blest are they whose inward beauty
Shows the path of truth a right.
Honor is their earthly prize;
By their work we realize,
Faith calls us on, faith calls us on.

4. We have shared a radiant hour
When the truth has made us free,
And the spirit's gracious power
Dreamed of good that yet shall be.
Bright the path before us lies.
Joyful pilgrims, now we rise;
Life calls us on, life calls us on.

Rise Up

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuRzV3amuSU>

Andra Day

You're broken down and tired
Of living life on a merry go round
And you can't find the fighter
But I see it in you so we gonna walk it out

And move mountains
We gonna walk it out
And move mountains

And I'll rise up
I'll rise like the day
I'll rise up
I'll rise unafraid
I'll rise up
And I'll do it a thousand times again
And I'll rise up
High like the waves
I'll rise up
In spite of the ache
I'll rise up
And I'll do it a thousand times again
For you
For you
For you
For you

When the silence isn't quiet
And it feels like it's getting hard to breathe
And I know you feel like dying
But I promise we'll take the world to its feet
And move mountains
We'll take it to its feet
And move mountains

And I'll rise up
I'll rise like the day
I'll rise up
I'll rise unafraid
I'll rise up
And I'll do it a thousand times again
For you
For you
For you
For you

All we need, all we need is hope
And for that we have each other
And for that we have each other
We will rise
We will rise

We'll rise, oh oh
We'll rise

I'll rise up
Rise like the day
I'll rise up
In spite of the ache
I will rise a thousand times again
And we'll rise up
Rise like the waves
We'll rise up
In spite of the ache
We'll rise up
And we'll do it a thousand times again
For you oh oh oh oh oh
For you oh oh oh oh oh
For you oh oh oh oh oh
For you