

Talk the Walk: Speaking Justice in the Language of Our Faith

Thursday, June 25 | 1:45-3PM US/Eastern (10:45-12pm PDT)

UU College of Social Justice

Historical movements for justice have often been inspired and sustained by religious faith and practice. Ours is an activist faith, yet when we take action in the public sphere our religion is often invisible. How might we bring our own justice commitments into deeper conversation with our spiritual lives, and learn to speak our convictions in the language of our faith?

Rev. Kathleen McTigue | Rev. Lindi Ramsden

Given dominance of conservative voices today, if liberals do not speak up, people will not be aware that there is another perspective. Pope's encyclical, reaction to Charleston examples of speech taking on conservative power structure from the grounding of their faith.

Exercise: articulate why you are present at a protest, in one sentence.

Important to have clarity of message.

What does it mean to be a practicing Unitarian? Usually the answer reported in terms of social action. Not just what we do, but how we do it.

Exercise: Center self. Now adjust sentences to language reflecting religious grounding.

Secular statements invite rebuttal on intellectual level. Can't argue against statement of deep religious feeling.

Living up to the promise of UUism doesn't just require tolerance, requires "glad curiosity" to hear the perspective of others.

When at an interfaith table, we need to take our turn to pray. World needs our voices.

Justice ministry not just about all the goals we are trying to reach, also about how we do the work, what kind of people we are as we approach the work, as individuals, as organizations, in the larger community.

If we state we have a theology of inclusion but insist on making all the important decisions ourselves, we are out of sync with our own theology.

Need to allow each other to pursue what each thinks is important without tearing each other down, avoid internal feuding, respect each others' basic humanity and good intent.

Respect each person's desire to transform society, meet them where they are, treat people with respect and kindness. Be glad that people have a desire to transform society.

Exercise: What virtues would make us better as people and as teams?

<http://www.tomschade.com/> writes about these virtues.

From Principles to Virtues:

<http://www.tomschade.com/2015/05/from-principles-to-virtues.html>