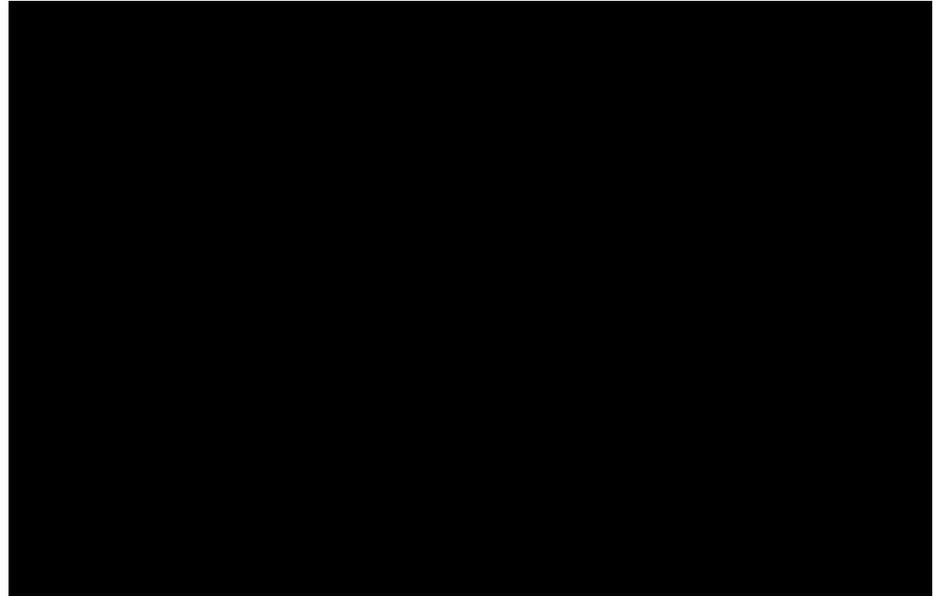


Session # 1

Reconnect and Reaffirm as UU's



Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Door County



Who Are Unitarian Universalists?



Reconnect and Reaffirm as UU's

Overview

- Session 1 (April 20) – History
 - Themes
 - Points in Time
 - People
- Session 2 (April 27) – Living Our Faith



Independent Search for Truth & Meaning

“Radical Ideas” (not just reformers)

- Humanity of Jesus (not divine)
 - **Arius (4th Century)** – Lost the debate at the Council of Nicaea and was as later poisoned.
 - **Michael Servetus (16th Century)** – Spanish theologian and humanist was burned at the stake by Calvin.



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- Religious Tolerance
 - **King John Sigismund of Transylvania & Edict of Torda (1568)** – First proclamation of religious freedom
 - **David Fancis** – King Sigismund’s Unitarian Minister – “We need not think alike to love alike.”
Died in prison in Deva, Transylvania, (home of the partner congregation of the Fox Valley Fellowship).



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- **Many (6) Sources of Unitarian Universalism**
 - **Jekin Lloyd Jones (1897)** – We honor the Bible and all inspiring scripture – old and new.
 - **Jones & Fannie Barrier Williams (1893)** – organized the World’s Parliament of Religions
 - **Universalist Kenneth Patton (1950s)** – Minister, Charles Street Meeting House, Boston – drew on texts from many traditions with a common thread which are now included in the readings in our hymnal



Independent Search for Truth & Meaning

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- Transcendentalism (early 19th Century) – A personal spiritual path
 - **Ralph Waldo Emerson** – Espoused the direct connection between God, nature and humans.
 - **Henry David Thoreau** – Author of *Walden, (a.k.a. Life in the Woods)*
 - **Margaret Fuller** – Pioneer feminist and writer
 - **Theodore Parker** – Famous quote: *The arc of the universe ultimately bends towards justice.*
 - **William Ellery Channing (1819)** – Proclaimed Unitarianism as an independent religious movement Officially founded as Unitarianism in 1825



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- Respect for the Interdependent Web (7th Principle)
 - **Margaret Fuller (transcendentalist)** - Questioned the western cultural notion that the world was to be used as humans desired without long-term accountability.
 - **Earth Day (April 1970)** – Strongly embraced by Unitarian Universalist congregations
 - **Green Sanctuary Program (2001)** – Congregational formal commitment to protect the environment
 - **Environmental Justice (current)** – Focus on attending to those most impacted by effects of global warming



Independent Search for Truth & Meaning

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➤ Science and Religion

- **Joseph Priestly (18th Century)** - Scientist (discovered oxygen) and minister – entirely compatible
- **Charles Darwin (19th Century)** - Theory of evolution embraced by Unitarian theologians and became the basis of using scientific method for religious truths
- **5th UU Source (1985)** - Humanist teachings stressing the guidance of reason and the results of science



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➤ Beloved Community

- **Cambridge Platform (1648)** - English settlers in Dedham, MA created a covenant of self-governing gathered in the spirit of love
- **Hosea Ballou (late 18th/early 19th Century)** – Universalist Minister - All saved through God’s love. Rejected concept of original sin. Kingdom of heaven is reflected in love for one another on Earth.
- **Social Gospel Movement (late 19th/early 20th Century)** – Christianity is meant to serve those on the margins of society.



2nd Principle: Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations

- Abolitionists – Many leading voices were Unitarian and Universalist



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- Abolitionists – Many leading voices were Unitarian and Universalist
- Racial Justice
 - **James Reeb & Viola Liuzzo** - Selma March (1965) — Murdered by white supremacist mobs
 - Internal UU Struggle (late 1960s) – White controlled UUA embroiled in controversy to fund programs supported by black UUs – impact lasted 50 years
 - Unitarian Universalists are working to lift up and center the voices and perspectives of those who have been historically marginalized. (beginning 2017)
 - Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism
 - Support Reform of the Criminal Justice System
 - Support Human Rights for Documented and Undocumented Immigrants and Refugees



2nd Principle: Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations

➤ Suffrage/Women's Movement

- **Judith Sargent Murray (1790)** - Wrote "On the Equality of the Sexes."
- **Margaret Fuller (1845)** - Wrote the first American manifesto for women's equality
- **Olympia Brown (1863)** – First woman ordained in US and called to Racine, WI congregation
- **Mary Livermore (1820-1905)** - President of the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association
- **Fannie Barrier Williams (1855-1944)** - Worked for the rights of African American women



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➤ Marriage & Gender Equality

- **Welcoming Congregation Resolution (1989 GA)** - Fully affirm and include lesbian, gay, and bisexual people and to advocate for equality
- **First legal same-sex marriage in US (2004)** – UUA chapel, performed by Pres. William Sinkford
- Commitment to safety, justice, affirmation and inclusion for transgender and genderqueer people



Unitarian Universalist Association

Seven Principles

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides.

We live out these Principles within a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

*As Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove explains,
“The Principles are not dogma or doctrine,
but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in
Unitarian Universalist religious communities.”*



Unitarian Universalist Association

Seven Principles

1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

3rd Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



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Discussion Question:

Many of our religious ancestors took great risks for their beliefs.

Can you describe examples of risk taking by congregants of UUFDC when living into our 7 principles?

UU Source #1

Transcendence

Direct experience of
that transcending mystery and wonder,
affirmed in all cultures,
which moves us to a renewal of the spirit
and an openness to the forces
which create and uphold life



UU Source #2

Prophets

Words and deeds of prophetic people
which challenge us
to confront powers and structures of evil
with justice, compassion,
and the transforming power of love



UU Source #3

Major World Religious Traditions

(non-Judeo-Christian)

Wisdom from the world's religions
which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life



UU Source #4

Judeo-Christian Religious Traditions

Jewish and Christian teachings
which call us to respond to God's love
by loving our neighbors as ourselves



UU Source #5

Humanism

Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed
the guidance of reason and the results of science,
and warn us against idolatries
of the mind and spirit



UU Source #6

Earth-centered Religious Traditions

Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions
which celebrate the sacred circle of life
and instruct us to live in harmony
with the rhythms of nature



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Questions?