

UUCR Small Group Ministry Session Plan
APRIL 2018: JUSTICE

It is good to be together – companionship is the heartbeat of our community. May your time of gathering be blessed! -Rev. Rebekah

CHALICE OR CANDLE LIGHTING

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OPENING WORDS (by Rev. Libbie Stoddard)

*We have come into this room of hope
where our hearts and minds are opened to the future.
We have come into this room of justice
where we set aside our fear to name freely every oppression.
We have come into this room of love
where we know that no lives are insignificant.
We have come into this room of song
where we unite our voices in the somber and the beautiful melodies of life.*

CHECK-IN

READINGS:

"Hopelessness is the enemy of justice." ~Bryan Stevenson, in his 2017 Ware Lecture at General Assembly

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. The question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for hate or for love? Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice or for the extremists of justice?" ~Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"In matters of truth and justice, there is no difference between large and small problems, for issues concerning the treatment of people are all the same." ~*Albert Einstein*

"Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance." ~*Verna Myers*

"What we would like to do is change the world—make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves... by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, the poor, of the destitute... [W]e can, to a certain extent, change the world; we can work for the oasis, the little cell of joy and peace in a harried world. We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever widening circle will reach around the world." ~*Dorothy Day*

“ We the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association covenant to affirm and promote : journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multi-cultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

-Paula Cole Jones & Bruce Pollack-Johnson
(The 8th Principle Project)

“Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are.”

~*Benjamin Franklin*

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

QUESTIONS and REQUESTS (Please respond to any of the questions you feel moved by. It is not necessary to respond to all of them.)

- ❖ Justice drives many of our work of service in the world. Which quote frames your spiritual calling towards justice?
- ❖ How does Justice relate to Peace... to Righteous Anger?
- ❖ How does Justice relate to how we care for one another in beloved community?
- ❖ What would you like our children and youth to know of the spiritual value of Justice?
- ❖ How do you struggle with Justice?

SHARING (up to 6 to 8 minutes each without interruption, depending on the time available, with optional open discussion at the end after all have shared)

MOMENT OF SILENT GRATITUDE

LIKES (celebrations, gratitudes, appreciations for needs met) and WISHES (mournings, requests, acknowledgements of needs not met)

CHECK-OUT (a few words or phrases from each who wants to share)

CLOSING WORDS (by Rev. Bill Sinkford)

Spirit of Life and Love, dear God of all nations:

There is so much work to do.

We have only begun to imagine justice and mercy.

Help us hold fast to our vision of what can be.

May we see the hope in our history,

*and find the courage and the voice to work for that constant rebirth
of freedom and justice.*

That is our dream.

Amen.

EXTINGUISH THE CHALICE OR CANDLE