

What We Believe

A dialogue sermon with the
Rev. Jackie Clement, First Parish Unitarian Universalist in Saugus, Mass.
and
Rev. David M. Horst, First Parish in Malden, Mass., Universalist
Unitarian Universalist Association Sunday
October 12, 2008

Opening remarks

Jackie: This year our Unitarian Universalist Association Sunday focus is theological education for laypeople and continuing education for our religious professionals. We and our sister and brother Unitarian Universalists across the country are giving time and thought to the theological and spiritual growth our lay and professional leaders, and committing financial resources to support educational efforts...

David: Supporting ongoing theological growth and learning is a goal we support, and it is vital and necessary work to keep our ever-evolving tradition of Unitarian Universalism relevant to our changing world and faithful to core religious values. We think it would be useful today to explore what we think is the core of our Unitarian Universalist spirituality and theology, and we invite you to be a part of the conversation....

Dialogue

David: Jackie, here's a big question! We talk often of our need for spirituality: What is it in general and how would you describe Unitarian Universalist spirituality in particular? From what sources do we draw?

Jackie responds. David comments and requests comments from the congregation.

Jackie: David, I've got a big question for you! What is the basis of Unitarian Universalist theological beliefs? We are proud of our theological diversity, but does the variety of beliefs create a basis for community or the potential for chaos? Where is our ultimate truth?

David responds. Jackie comments and requests comments from the congregation.

David: Jackie, we profess a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning" in our Unitarian Universalist principles and purposes. How *does* or *should* this belief work itself out in our religious lives? What are the points of challenge or discomfort?

Jackie responds. David comments and requests comments from the congregation.

Jackie: What is our movement's contribution to the larger world of religious belief? Are we simply a counter-religious movement or can we make legitimate claims of faith?

David responds. Jackie comments and requests comments from the congregation.

David and Jackie make concluding remarks and request final comments from the congregation.

Closing words

Jackie and David: "Remembering that the universe is so much larger than our ability to comprehend, let us go forth from this time together and resolve to stop trying to reduce the incomprehensible to our petty expectations; so that wonder, that sense of what is sacred, can open up our minds and light up our lives."

- Marjorie Newlin Leaming