

## **One Spiritual Practice for Community Ministers: Equipping the Saints - Part II**

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In my last column I promised to offer some "surprising" spiritual practices for equipping the saints for ministry. By "the saints" I mean all us - lay leaders or ordained clergy - who are out there answering the soul's call to service and, in the process, making real the call of UUA President Peter Morales to extend the reach of Unitarian Universalism and the principles we uphold "to congregations and beyond." We, the community ministers, are on the leading edge of that movement. How do we spiritually equip ourselves to meet this moment in our history?

### **Get Clear on Being Missionaries**

Communities ministers are missionaries. I'm sorry if the term offends you; it's time to get over that. Thank you. This is the first "surprising spiritual practice" I want to call us to. We need to think - and speak - in terms of mission because we DO have a mission to serve. Consciously thinking about and naming our work in that light is one of the most powerful spiritual practices we can embrace.

### **The Missionary Mindset.**

Like all missionaries, we are going out into unknown territory in the hope of creating adherents to our faith because we believe it has salvific power. (Hang in there with me! Breathe!) By "our faith" I don't even mean Unitarian Universalism! Of course if people are drawn to becoming UUs - great!! But the purpose of a movement is not to point to itself -- something that the individual I regard by virtue of his theology as the first unitarian universalist, Jesus, certainly knew. The purpose is to change the world in ways that have life-giving, even life-saving, power.

### **This is Our Moment**

And by "our" I mean Earth and everyone on it. You know the stakes! Recite to yourselves the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism. If you've never committed them to memory, that's a second spiritual practice I recommend. Taking them into your being makes a difference. Either way, don't you deeply believe that these are the the life-saving principles for humankind? Don't you truly hold that if we, collectively, lived by these values we could create the tipping-point that would carry us through our interwoven global crises? I know you do! That's our mission, friends. Our mission is to contribute everything we can to the creation of that tipping point! That means challenging ourselves to live, exemplify, explore, work for and shamelessly proselytize these values in both what we do and what we say.

The times call for boldness. Name and claim the mission! Go read or recite the Seven Principles - and then say aloud in the mirror. "I am a community minister and a missionary for the principles of this faith that have the power to save the world."

Bless you! We are on this path together.

More surprising practices next time...

Blessings on Your Ministry -  
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