

Topic #6 2012: Assimilating – June 2012
Ingathering and housekeeping: such as next meeting place day and time.

Light the Chalice

Check-in

Opening Words:

Life is its own journey, presupposes its own change and movement, and one tries to arrest them at one's eternal peril.

*Laurens Van der Post, **Venture to the Interior***

Topic Introduction:

Assimilation is the process of absorbing and incorporating new attitudes, values, and beliefs into our daily lives. As we search for personal truth and meaning, we discover that there are ideas that hold greater meaning to us than others; sometimes we learn about them in a formal way, such as a class; other times we stumble upon them. In each instance, we determine that which has meaning for us, makes sense to us, offers value to us, evokes strong emotional reactions in us, or *connects* with us in a way that inspires us to incorporate it in accordance with our own standards. For example, was it new to us? Was it relevant to our lives? Did it enhance our lives in some way?

Sharing deep listening:

- **Think back to the last class you took to gain new information. What standards did you set to decide how important that information was? What information did you assimilate? What information did you toss out?**
- **Unitarian Universalist RE classes offer many opportunities to search for truth and meaning. Are there standards that we as Unitarian Universalists should employ to decide whether or not new attitudes, values, or beliefs are worthy? If so, what are they?**
- **Pick one of the Seven Principles and share how you have assimilated that principle into your daily life. Repeat for others as time allows.**

Inherent worth and dignity

Justice, equity, and compassion

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth

Free and responsible search for truth and meaning

Right of conscience and use of the democratic process

World community with peace, liberty, and justice

Respect for the interdependent web

Topic discussion

Likes and Wishes

Closing Words:

The living traditions we share draw from many sources, including 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.

UUA Order of Service

Extinguish the Chalice