

Social Justice for Membership Service October 8, 2017

Reader One: All Unitarian Universalists strive to create a more just society,

Reader Two: for people of all races,

Reader Three: for inhabitants of all nations.

Reader Two: We strive for humane relations among people of varied religions, those of different sexual identities and our friends with physical or mental disabilities.

Reader Three: We create a kaleidoscope view of our psychic interior from the diversity of humanity.

Reader One: Theodore Parker (1810-1860) was an American Transcendentalist and reforming minister of the Unitarian church whose popular quotations would later inspire speeches by Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr. (1810-1860) His words:

Reader Two: “I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, And from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice.

Reader One: The Unitarian Dorothea Lynde Dix (1802-1887 was a life long advocate for improving conditions for the mentally ill and served as Superintendent of United States Army Nurses during the civil war. She stated:

Reader Three: “I have learned to live each day as it comes, and not to borrow trouble by dreading tomorrow. It is the dark menace of the future that makes cowards of us.” And with equal eloquence that: “Nobody wants to kiss when they are hungry”

Reader One: Educator, nurse and founder of the American Red Cross, Universalist Clara Barton (1821-1912) was nicknamed the “Angel of the Battlefield” for her heroic service during the Civil War, of which she states:

Reader Two: “My business is stanching blood and feeding fainting men; my post the open field between the bullet and the hospital. I sometimes discuss the application of a compress or a wisp of hay under a broken limb, but not the bearing and merits of a political movement. I make gruel—not speeches; I write letters home for wounded soldiers, not political addresses.”

Reader Three: Another quote: “I have an almost complete disregard of precedent, and a faith in the possibility of something better. It irritates me to be told how things have always been done. I defy the tyranny of precedent. I go for anything new that might improve the past.”

Reader One: We honor Sophia Lyon Fahs, (1876-1978) the Revolutionary Unitarian Children’s Religious Educator, who said:

Reader Three: We teach our children these principles: that to live the just life means we nurture the interdependent web of life, that we are protective of the earth we walk upon, the air we breathe, the water that quenches our thirst, and we give thanks to the sun that sustains our ecosystem. Likewise we advocate for our relationship to the flora and fauna that have inhabited our planet for thousands of years before us.

All Three Readers: For all of these reasons, for these broad shoulders upon which we stand, for a less judgmental perspective, we raise our voices to defend social justice.