

On Multiculturalism

UUs have some of the best slogans going: “Nurture your spirit, help heal the world.” “Many paths, one destination. Come home.” “The Uncommon Denomination.” “A Different Kind of Trinity: Respect, Freedom, Justice”. “Standing on the Side of Love”. We have universal principles. We have a quality message, a good product; a message so powerful that we were once called “the most dangerous faith in America” by a leader of a large Christian denomination. He called us dangerous because our theology is so wide in terms of its reach. This religious leader knew if we ever really lived into the essence of our faith we would be a much larger, much more influential and much more effective as a faith.

However, we will not get there if we don't recognize and find fault in the fact that the majority of our faith is of one racial demographic. This goes against what our world is and what our faith expresses. We will not manifest our greatness as a religion until we recognize that transformation requires small t and big T changes. The small t's lead to big T manifestations meaning that the small things in church MATTER.

Some say we want multiculturalism, inclusivity, more people of color, and the like. Well, what do visitors see on your walls when they visit your congregation that conveys this message? What do they hear you talking about, preaching about, and teaching in classes for adults and children? What do they hear you singing? What do they see in your order of service? “Where's the beef?” What do people feel in their heart, beyond the corporate message in your statements of faith? Investing in transformative work is about doing the small stuff so that the big stuff will be manifest. Doing a personal inventory of your own and your church's life is what is required. Embracing this challenge is at the heart of what it means to be human and Unitarian Universalist.

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