

Youth Sunday Q & A Panel on the 6th Principle of Unitarian Universalism:
The Goal of World Community with Peace, Liberty, and Justice for All

Introductions

Tessa enjoys playing and working outdoors. She currently works as a child care provider here at UUCF, and before that was her job, she volunteered for several years in the infant and toddler room.

Kate and Emma are in 10th grade. They both love singing and dancing.

I asked them to chat about the 6th Principle of Unitarian Universalism, which is The Goal of World Community with Peace, Liberty, and Justice for All.

But first, let's get to know them a bit more.

Q & A

1. Please share one of your best memories or experiences at UUCF or a UUCF event.
2. Please describe a time in your life when you saw an absence of (peace, liberty, or justice), and how did you cope?
3. What do you think you could do to influence or encourage more peace, liberty, or justice in our community?

Closing Remarks

I have been a member of UUCF since 2016, and have been in the role of Interim Youth Coordinator since last fall. It's my honor to work with the children of UUCF, especially the middle & high school youth groups.

You may or may not be aware that the youth groups were interrupted for over a year due to Covid, and we're still trying to get them up and running again. But that's difficult when everyone has such busy schedules, and when youth groups are still mostly online. Nobody wants to do online anymore!

But we do the very best we can with what we have to work with.

While I was working on the Q&A with Tessa, Emma, and Kate, I wanted them to know that I didn't want them to dive head first into all the world's problems. They're so aware and thoughtful, they were ready for me to quiz them on local, national, and global problems and solutions.

But I didn't want this panel to be about, hey WE grown up messed up, and now it's your turn to try to fix it! Not only is that too much pressure to put on a few young shoulders, but also just unrealistic.

I know they have many adults in their lives who have spent the better part of their lives striving to give them, and all kids, a better world. But there's only so much we can do. As a lifelong do-gooder myself, I know the feeling of carrying the weight of the world on one's shoulders, and how often one can burn out from trying to do it all.

Striving toward more peace, justice, and liberty is a gigantic undertaking. It's a movement, right? And for every little bit that is ever achieved, there must be people willing to work hard every day to keep it.

It's like growing a garden. Every year seeds have to be planted, the soil has to be healthy, with plenty of water, but not too much. And while the seeds grow, there's so much maintenance, like weeding and pruning.

I'm reminded of a quote from the book *Lab Girl* by scientist Hope Jaren. She wrote: "Something so hard can be so easy if you just have a little help. In the right place, under the right conditions, you can finally stretch out into what you're supposed to be."

That to me is the joy of working with the youth of UUCF. Parents and staff and of course other kids and peers, make the right conditions for the youth to thrive here and out in our wider communities. *How lucky we all are to get to be a part of this.* And that's what The Goal of World Community with Peace, Liberty, and Justice for All means to me: that everyone everywhere has the opportunity to become who they are meant to be.