

Second Q and A, March 21

Don't like that we're calling it theology, because we have to translate that word. Can we say what we hold most deeply or cherish or what we're committed to.

One of the things the chapter talks about is the need to spiritual grounding in order to move to action

I think we all do have a theology, one that is shared. More humanist now than Christian limited, e.g. we believe that every person is born with potential for good, neither limited nor condemned either by a deity nor society.

Theology might be "loaded" for some; for others, not. Over time, I have used many different words to represent my spiritual life. How can we possibly settle on one or another as appropriate for all?

How about more guest preacher from nearby African American congregations, and vice versa? And Asian-Americans. And Latino Americans.

Reading Howard Thurman is always uplifting even though definitely Christian.

Bringing materials from BLUU into our worship services would help me engage more deeply.

I appreciate the analogy to putting medical explanations into words that patients understand. I think "theology" helps newcomers (as we widen the circle) to understand where we stand in language they are familiar with.

We can bring materials into our services that come from marginalized communities.

The definition of theology is: "the study of God & religious belief, or religious beliefs & theory when systematically developed." Thus, the WIDER definition of the word is not limited to God believing...

Agree with the point that the full, comprehensive, exhaustive search can be for the UUA to do. But that doesn't prevent us from doing our own research as well, and adding to our community what we learn.

I always felt spiritually, theologically and socially justice supported when I raised issues of support for LGBTQ students in my classrooms as a teacher.

OWL is spiritual.

Any word can be debated a lot, many people think we're not a religion. We can also use philosophy, ethics, what we believe is important, what we're dedicated to.

When I look through the report, there aren't many categories we are doing zero in, when we ask what would be useful, we are asking what would be useful to you? How can we get more people involved?

At official USG events, acknowledging the Lenape people who were here before us and who are still in NW Philly.

Dismantling needs to be done with care. What are we dismantling and can we do it with care. We need invitation and compassion. Not shaming and blaming.

Can we join with other community groups on some community projects - be made aware of project and how/when to be a part of the project - not necessarily as planner, but as a participant

Because our understanding/sense of theology is so murky, it is so important to clarify that issue before moving forward to the more straightforward (although still challenging topics). Just think of how much there is for someone new to the congregation/faith to understand

The land we are on was that of the Lenape and we are not engaged with that community.

Tonika and Sarah met with a local Lenape group to talk about a Native Land Acknowledgement statement for Ending Racism and other areas of USG. Maybe it could be read by the worship associate at the beginning of the service.

Our work with POWER brings us into many wonderful collaborations with African American ministers and congregations. We should increase this engagement.

ERC Presents on April 18 will host David Rose who is working with local Indigenous groups.

Also through POWER there are opportunities for our USG youth to work with youth groups in largely African American congregations.

People are encouraged to read the avatars from the report to understand the composite stories and the harm that has been done.

People are encouraged to attend the Peace Walk as a way of Widening the Circle.