

VUUPoint
BOARD HIGHLIGHTS
January 28, 2017

Friends of VUU,

It's one week beyond inauguration, and I'm wondering how you are feeling about what lies ahead. This week, I had to get out of my own denial about the degree of change we may be facing in the nation. The new cabinet candidates and executive orders are alarming and daunting to everyone with progressive beliefs.

But this week, I also took heart that women and men all over the world united in protest—the largest single day of protest in history. And I'm proud of the women at VUU who marched in D.C. and Phoenix. This, I hope, augers a new era of activism for the principles we hold dear. On a personal level, we may be challenged more than we have been in a long time—challenged to give more time, financial support and emotional capital than we have been contributing lately.

How do we gear up for that? Speaking for myself, I will rely more heavily than ever on the practice of our UU faith. Our Touchstone theme this month is Courage, and, boy, do I need that—such a timely topic for reading, sermons and reflection. Here's my take-away:

- 1) **We need our Vision and Principles**—We must maintain our clarity and conviction about creating a world that is just, loving, peaceful and healthy for all. In the latest Touchstones Journal, Rev. Galen Guengerich describes courage in terms of vision: "It's the wisdom to know which direction to go and the willingness to take a step in that direction. Whatever your fear, have courage. Face the direction you must go. Then take the first step. And then keep marching."
- 2) **We need each other to maintain our courage.** That's the magic that happened at the Women's March. And it's the magic that happens in our sanctuary on Sunday and in the work we do for social justice. Holly Near says, "Something happens to me when I witness someone's courage. They may not know I'm watching and I might not let them know. But something happens to me that will last me for a lifetime. To fill me when I'm empty, and rock me when I'm low."
- 3) **We need empathy for whatever pain and fear is griping the other half of the nation.** This is the hardest part for me because I just want to fight the good fight right now. But there has to be a way to break through the communication barriers long enough to find common ground on goals for our society. And on a personal level, I have some relatives with whom I would like to connect on common ground. (Like many families, we have been isolating due to politics.) Again, I quote from Touchstones, "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen," per Winston Churchill.

Whatever lies ahead, I am grateful for this VUU community of kindred souls, for our ministers and staff, and for the resources of the UUA in supporting us on this journey to create a world where the moral arc bends toward justice.

Yours in covenant,

Janice Miller

President

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