

INTERN MINISTER

Greetings from the Twitter-verse!

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As a reminder, I explore each month's Soul



Connections theme on my Twitter account (@kellieuukelly) using a hashtag (#) and the month's theme (example: "#Identity"). I also would love to join your explorations of the monthly themes—simply include my Twitter handle at the beginning of your

Tweet: "@kellieuukelly" or post to my Facebook wall. For those of you who aren't interested or able to sign up for a Twitter account, I include some of my favorite tweets here in our newsletter.

So this month, we explore #Connection. What does it mean to be a community of #connection?

In thinking about my column on #connection, I quickly thought of our 7th Principle, which reminds us to affirm the interdependent web of life. When I went to our Unitarian Universalist Association website (www.uua.org) to make sure that I had the exact wording of the Principle, I realized that all of our Principles emphasize #connection.

For those of you who might need a reminder (like even your intern minister), here are our seven Principles:

1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

3rd Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Do you recognize the #connections of each Principle?

In the 1st Principle, we affirm and promote equality of all people, we are #connected to each other by all our inherent worth. In the 2nd Principle, we further elaborate on how this equality should translate into our actions in the world (justice, equity, and compassion). In the 3rd Principle, we show another way to put equality into the world and once again it involves #connection between human beings:

acceptance of one another. The 4th Principle is the only Principle that does not have an obvious reference to #connection: a free and responsible search for truth; however, I believe the search for truth #connects us to the holy—something greater than ourselves—whether it is God, Love, or the Cosmos. The 5th Principle emphasize our need to share power and use our #connections to make decisions together through the democratic process. In the 6th Principle, we promote #connection worldwide that will have peace, liberty, and justice for all. Finally, in the 7th Principle, we extend our #connection from our world family to all living and non-living parts of the world (grasshoppers to mountains).

Wow, that's quite a tall order—to be connected to every person is the world, offer all people equality, AND to be connected to all living and non-living parts of the cosmos! Are you feeling a wee bit overwhelmed yet? Hehe!

Let me remind you of a few things that will hopefully ease your mind. First of all, many of these #connections exist between us and the world already—it is not so much about working to make these #connections as it is about recognizing the #connections that already exist in our lives and nourishing them. Secondly, our Principles are not a tool for shame; instead, our Principles our greatest values and aspirations. We will often fall short and there will always be a gap between our ideals and our actions. However, our Principles call us to our best selves with love and compassion. Finally, you are #connected to a great group of people trying to transform themselves and the world. We #connect to each other to help each other become our best selves. We are #connected to each other.

As the summer minister, I will lead three services that will explore how we can #connect with each other and an even larger "us." I will be leading a service with our Mental Health Awareness Team (MyHAT) and offering a workshop on suicide awareness and prevention afterwards. We also have several guest ministers who will show us how to #connect more deeply with our planet, our incarcerated siblings, and ourselves

May the sunshine warm your bodies and hearts as we enlarge our circle of #connection!

With gratitude, Kellie