

January/February, 2009

A New Beginning Framed in Faith and Love

Let us Begin now!

To say that I am excited to be joining you this January, as your new minister is an understatement. I am honored to be invited by the Board and this congregation and do believe that we have wonderful work to do together. I truly believe that to be alive is to have a measure of responsibility for the quality of life we nurture on earth. It is to be keenly aware and accept a measure of responsibility for the quality of energy we exchange with one another and with all life on our planet earth, in general. The quality of human life and experiences that show up around us are not by accidents but are a result of our collective energy exchanges. It is truly a privilege to be human and true living is being responsible, a response-ability, wow! Would you really want it any other way than being imbued by your Creator with the ability to respond to the higher calling of life?

This understanding is at the very heart of what the Unity ministry and being a student of Truth are all about. Faith is our power to make a difference. To have our work framed and trimmed in Love ought to get us excited. Faith, we say, is the perceiving power of mind coupled with the ability to shape substance. This means that we bring the invisible to visibility by the power of Faith. Would you waste your creative energy to bring into being a product that is not of the highest quality of which you are capable? Love guarantees the quality and gives our creation an enduring quality.

Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 13:1-3 said:

"If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing."

Love is the canvass and framework for any enduring creation.

I have a personal relationship to the history of this church to be able to say:

This church is a house built by FAITH and framed in LOVE.

Let us return now to our core values of working together trustingly, in faith and love.

Mine is a personal journey that is more than physical. Spiritually, I am returning to the Twin Cities where Faith and Love have been nurtured deep within me as a Unity minister. I have returned to join you, and together we are issuing an invitation to friends, old and new, to join us again that we may grow together in Unity, by building Unity South Church, Unity in the Twin Cities, the Unity movement together. It is a noble calling that ought to engage us, passionately!

Let's begin now, and as apostle Paul said: "... *forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*" (Philippians 3:13, 14)

The beginning of a New Year is a wonderful time to reframe our lives and our work.

In Unity, during the month of January, we focus our conscious attention on our Faith faculty. We see Faith as one of the 12-Powers inherent in our spiritual nature, referring to one of the original sparks of divinity that constitutes our spiritual essence.

Faith is our inner sight, an inherent power to perceive the invisible and shape it into form. *This is the testimony of all spiritual traditions, and now of science, that everything we see was coaxed out of an invisible essence.*

I cannot think of a better way to start a New Year than connecting with our Faith center and meditatively deepening our contact with this and all of our inner spiritual resources. Charles Fillmore, co-founder of Unity said: "*Faith is the perceiving power of mind, coupled with the ability to shape substance.*" We have this power, native to our being, capable of 'seeing' the invisible and bringing it into form.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light...." (Genesis 1:1-3)

Unity teaches that our greatest accomplishments come from working with the original spark of Divinity within us. Today, indeed now, is the moment of decision. We decide to live a life of Faith rather than that of fear; to serve up Love instead of bowing to fear, anger and hate. We need to decide to live passionately, always from our highest dreams and ideals, instead of from our fears. In February our consciousness and energy are focused on the spiritual faculty, Love. Faith and Love work together for a perfect creation.

A New Year offers us new opportunity to reframe our lives from inside. We have the inherent power to frame our lives anew. Let's frame it in Faith with Love as our compass.

Personally, I dream of a world free from fear and hate; free from war and strife. I believe that the day is now for all God's children, the children of the world to live in love, peace and mutual support. We cannot continue to postpone living out that which our heart has been calling forth throughout the ages of human existence. It seems to me incredible, that quite often, human beings accept that we have no choice but to be reacting from the lowest form of free-floating energy around us. We 'willy-nilly' accept the doctrine of survival of the fittest, thereby rejecting that evolution can follow a spiritual path. Today, I decide not to live a predatory life--- of choosing between 'you and me.'

Today, we make a leap of faith, believing that we are ready to embrace one another. We are ready to affirm a humanity that is operating from the heart-center. Love is our compass and we have the spiritual strength to live from our ideals, our passion for peace and love.

May 2009 advance human spiritual evolution and usher in peace and harmony beyond human comprehension. May the year 2009 shower you with abundance of blessings!

Yours in Faith Love!

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