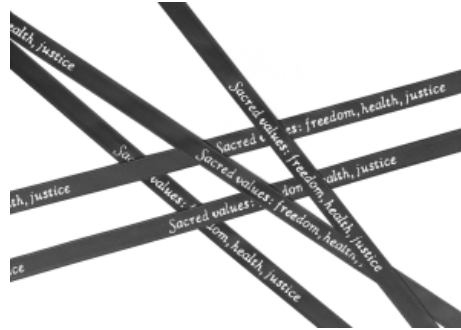


“Sacred Values: A Celebration of Freedom, Health, and Justice”

Thursday, Feb. 8, 2007
Indiana Statehouse
Indianapolis

*The ribbons will be
used towards the end
of the service.*



Prelude Film: “A Point of View” from the youth of
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Indianapolis

Welcome Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia

Ringling of the Bell

Opening Prayer Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia

“Clueless: A Real-Life Story”¹

Readers: Carolyn Meagher, Rev. Mike Mather, Rev. Richard Clough, Brittany Swackhamer

Reflection on the Sacred Value of Freedom Rev. Mike Mather

Responsive Prayer²

Leader:

God of justice and compassion, make us compassionate and just
Grant the wisdom to make choices for all the lives You give in trust
Attune us to the pain of others, who need services and truth
Show us how to make a difference, in schools and homes and in Your world.

All:

God of every generation, keep the vision clear before us:
Opened doors and opened minds rise to freedom, health and justice.

Reflection on the Sacred Value of Health Rev. Pamela D. Senko

Responsive Prayer²

Leader:

May Your vision of Your people given knowledge, freedom to choose
With compassion and with justice shape our visions, work and words
You have shaped our hearts within us, planted spirits made to rise
Up and open doors so all Your children can be healthy, may be wise

All:

God of Life and all Creation, keep the vision clear before us:
Opened doors and opened minds rise to freedom, health and justice.

Reflection on the Sacred Value of Justice Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia

Responsive Prayer²

Leader:

We, created in Your image, people of faith, made for love
When our neighbor, stranger, loved one seeks in vain for words of hope
We cannot ignore a darkness when light is in our hands to give
Forgive us because closed doors and silenced minds make life perilous to live.

Grant all people healthy choices to care for others and for self
Courage to teach and speak compassion, justice, freedom, truth to tell
Let us be now be bold, audacious, to stand with those who fear they'll fall
Grant us strength to care for Your children, to accept today this work and call.

All:

God of steadfast love and wisdom, keep the vision clear before us:
Opened doors and opened minds rise to freedom, health and justice.

The People Respond Rev. Mike Mather

(All are invited to tie ribbons on each other's wrists. Clergy are invited to come to the stage and join in leading responsive reading of the Religious Declaration.)

Leader: The *Religious Declaration on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing* has been endorsed by about 3,000 clergy across the nation, including many of the Indiana clergy who stand on the stage today. Please join us in reading this declaration responsively.

Religious Declaration on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing³

Clergy:

Sexuality is God's life-giving and life-fulfilling gift. We come from diverse religious communities to recognize sexuality as central to our humanity and as integral to our spirituality. We are speaking out against the pain, brokenness, oppression, and loss of meaning that many experience about their sexuality. Our faith traditions celebrate the goodness of creation, including our bodies. We sin when this sacred gift is abused or exploited. However, the great promise of our traditions is love, healing, and restored relationships.

Everyone:

Our culture needs an ethic focused on personal relationships and social justice. God hears the cries of those who suffer from the failure of religious communities to address sexuality.

Clergy:

Faith communities must therefore be truth seeking, courageous, and just. We call for:

- Theological reflection that integrates the wisdom of excluded, often silenced peoples, and insights from medicine, social science, the arts and humanities.
- Sexuality counseling and education throughout the lifespan from trained religious leaders.
- Support for those who challenge sexual oppression and who work for justice within their congregations and denomination.

Everyone:

Faith communities must also advocate for physical and spiritual wholeness in society. We call for:

Men: Lifelong, age appropriate sexuality education in schools, seminaries, and community settings.

Women: A faith-based commitment to reproductive health and reproductive rights, access to family planning and a full spectrum of health care including HIV/STD prevention and treatment.

Clergy: Religious leadership in movements to end sexual and social injustice.

Everyone:

God rejoices when we celebrate our bodies with holiness and integrity. We invite our friends and colleagues and faith communities to join us in promoting sexual morality, justice, and healing.

Call for Commitment Rabbi Sandy Sasso

Closing Moment of Silence

End silence with the ring of a bell

Participants

Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia, Unitarian Universalist Church, Lafayette

Rev. Mike Mather, Broadway United Methodist Church, Indianapolis

Rabbi Sandy Sasso, Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Indianapolis

Rev. Pamela D. Senko, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Brittany Swackhamer, student, Purdue University

Rev. Richard Clough, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Indianapolis

Kaye McSpadden, President, IRCRC

Carolyn Meagher, Religious Educator, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Indianapolis

Also, special thanks to the youth of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Indianapolis

Acknowledgments

¹Adapted from *Adult Guide to The Gift of Sexuality: Empowerment for Religious Teens* by Steve Clapp, c2006 LifeQuest. Used by permission. For copies of this and other publications on faith, teens, and sexuality, contact Christian Community, 6404 S Calhoun St, Fort Wayne IN 46807. 800-774-3360. www.churchstuff.com.

²Adapted from *A Singing Faith (God of Justice, God of Mercy)*. Words © 1983 Jane Parker Huber. Used by permission.

³Note: this reading is an adapted excerpt. To read the entire Religious Declaration, go to www.religiousinstitute.org/declaration.html. Used by permission.

Sponsored by

Indiana Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

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