

8/22/10 Sermon

"I'm Mad as Hell, And I Am Not Going To Take It Any More"

Rev. Paul D. Daniel, Minister

I stand on the side of love. Where do you stand?

It is important to declare oneself right now – not at some convenient time.

I am talking morally and ethically – witnessing with courage publicly ... at work, in our school, at the bus stop, and throughout our local communities. It is time to stop ceding the playing field to the fundamental right – religious and political, at all levels of government. This is a time for faith in action, more than just words, by deeds.

We must commit ourselves to this work, no matter how imperfect our efforts. We must stand on the side of love. From Michael Sevetus in the 16th Century to James Reeb in the 1960s, we have made the ultimate sacrifice ... for they were standing on the side of love.

When the UUA headquarters in Boston hung a sign outside the building in support of marriage equality, they were standing on the side of love. Why do we not have a gay pride flag displayed on our property?

I am talking of moral courage, the courage to live our shared values. This is not about power but of religious integrity.

This campaign encourages all of us to strive for full equality for all people everywhere, whatever gender identity or sexual orientation.

When we stand on the side of love, we affirm the full humanity of all people – immigrants, people of color, everyone.

It honors the inherent worth and dignity of all people.

It honors the inner divine in everyone.

Standing on the side of love means not "them and us," but "we." It is reconciliation, of ally and adversary. Harmony, not strife and exclusion.

This is a call to human compassion. As Martin Luther King said, "I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

I am standing on the side of love!!

Will you stand on the side of love with me? Will you?????

<NOTE: The balance of Rev. Paul's sermon was a personal reflection.>