**The Weight of Ministry**

“When the fire of commitment sets our minds and souls ablaze, when our hunger and our passion meet to call us on our way. When we live with deep assurance of the faith that burns within,   
then our promise finds fulfillment, and our future can begin.”

Beloveds, my heart is breaking right now for all the turmoil in our faith, the turmoil that seems to be pulling us apart thread by thread. Today, the past president of our UUA released a letter that he addressed to “all UU’s” in which he declared the recent actions of the UU community to be that of an inquisition. When I consider Peter’s comment that “beloved community does not throw people under the bus”… I have to ask, what about all of the UU’s of color that we (as white UU’s) have been throwing under the bus for years… since the conception of our UU faith?

At my ordination, my dear colleague Joel Miller reminded me that a stole in our UU faith comes with a mighty weight, and a big responsibility to carry our message of Unitarian Universalism out into the world. Shortly after the presentation of this mantle of ministry comes what we call the “laying on of hands,” it is a ceremony that includes a prayer, and the physical touch of all those in the room. Douglas then reminded me of those who are here to support my ministry and to help guide me forward, and also reiterated this weight of ministry. While I did not necessarily feel the weight of the stoles when they were placed upon my shoulders… it was in this moment… the moment of human contact that I felt the actual weight of ministry.

And it was mighty heavy.

My call to UU Ministry came in several forms, each having to do with relationship, but the one that pushed me over the edge was hearing a colleague preach a sermon in our new church building about why our First Principle (that we covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person) was so important. As a UU, and now as an ordained minister, I am charged with living our principles out loud in my life, to speak truth to power, and to fight back against injustices when I see them.

We put the call out a few weeks ago to have a white supremacy teach in here at UUCB and while it was met with some fear and uncertainty, it was also met with curiosity and gladness. And this past Sunday you showed up! Many of you were uncomfortable talking about this topic, but you brought your vulnerable, scared, loving selves to the conversation even though it was hard. You were joined by over 600 other UU congregations around the world, doing the work of justice and compassion. YOU answered this call of love with fierce bravery, today (and many days) you made me so proud to be able to say that UUCB ordained me as a minister in our tradition, with all of the weight and wander that entails.

The weight of ministry is heavy, and I want you to know that I for one am committed to building the world we dream about day by day, moment by moment especially when it is hard. Won’t you come along and help me build a faith in which we truly do affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of *every* person?