

THE MARKINGS

Conversations Then & Now

Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed
Dr. Mark A. Hicks



Welcome & Introductions

Rev. Dr. Lee Barker
President,
Meadville Lombard





MARK D. MORRISON-REED

The Selma Awakening



How the Civil Rights Movement
Tested and Changed Unitarian Universalism



"Thus it was" By Dag Hamarskjöld. In the book, The Markings



“Fear? Yes, in the stomach, throat, knees,
pulsating in the eyes, pounding in the head. It
was frightening and profound.”

—Ralph Stutzman

“Moving toward a
human community”

Selma, 1965





Rev. James Reeb



Reeb Memorial Service

Thus it Was

Dag Hammarskjöld

[For we are still] driven forward

Into an unknown land.

The pass grows steeper,

The air colder and sharper.

A wind from [our] unknown goal

Stirs the strings

Of expectation.

Still the question:

Shall I ever get there?

There where life resounds,

A clear pure note

In the silence.

Video Montage of Scenes from
Selma 1965 and Beloved Conversations
Groups 2013-2014.



Dr. Mark A. Hicks

Director, The Fahs Collaborative

Angus MacLean Professor of Religious Education

“Liberalism failed
to see that reason
by itself is little
more than an
instrument to
justify defensive
ways of thinking”

MLK, 1958



Container for Re-Learning

- Consider equally the intellectual and emotional landscape
- Apply developmentally sensitive teaching strategies
- Hold the group's "presence"... commit to stay at the table and support each other's growth

Methods Should...

- Tap into structures of knowledge that produced what you know and how you know it;
- Address head-on the fears of losing what feels safe and predictable
- Be open to learning in community-minded ways
- Co-construct new value-system that builds on what you learn

Methods Should (part 2)

- Create opportunities to sustain learning and a spirit of collegiality
- Embed it all in an arts-filled, worshipful space that nurtures expressions of imperfection, shame and ambiguity alongside grace, joy, interconnectedness and gratitude



- Congregation-based
- Small group ministry approach
- Begins with 1.5 day retreat
- 8 sessions

Giving our Better Angels a Chance to Practice Their Skills





We have blessed by
spread your arms as if you have
the love in your heart. Let
blessings to each other. Walk lightly so that you see life below
should dance through the joy of breath in your lungs.

Promising Outcomes

- More courageous in cross-cultural dialogue
- Taking risks confronting assumptions
- Sitting with difference
- More adaptable with other cultural norms
- More fluid translating personal communication styles to other traditions
- Better able to link personal power to systematic oppression
- More resilient confronting the status-quo
- More curious about personal assumptions/those of others
- Better able to set aside issues of perfectionism and judgment

“I finally feel like I can now call my church home”





Every crisis has its dangers and its opportunities

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Rather than focusing on issues of ‘safety’, we
should create a common
feeling of community...that there is shared
commitment and a common
good that binds us”

Public Intellectual bell hooks

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

- Handouts Available as you Exit -

Information Sessions on Beloved Conversations
Today: 3:30-5:00 Exhibit Hall, Meadville Lombard Booth