

## Theological Reflection: Session 3

### Inherent Worth and Dignity

Themes: Identity, Privilege/Oppression, Multiculturalism

*In the midst of blatant injustices inflicted upon the Negro, I have watched white churchmen stand on the sideline and mouth pious irrelevancies and sanctimonious trivialities. In the midst of a mighty struggle to rid our nation of racial and economic injustice, I have heard many ministers say: "Those are social issues, with which the gospel has no real concern." And I have watched many churches commit themselves to a completely otherworldly religion, which makes a strange, un-Biblical distinction between body and soul, between the sacred and the secular...*

*But the judgment of God is upon the church as never before. If today's church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century.*

*-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"*

- What is a Unitarian Universalist "gospel" or "sacrificial spirit"?
- How would we know if our words were "pious irrelevancies and sanctimonious trivialities"?
- What is sacred about the work of understanding identity, oppression, and multiculturalism? Why do we affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person?