

The Importance of Torda450 and Conversations

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There are many discussions about “interfaith” this or that. How do we achieve it? Who should be included? Even atheists, because is atheism a faith? What counts as faith? And what happens when we hit topics no one agrees upon—Salvation? Divinity/ies? Which conversations can be inclusive of all? When do we choose to not include “those” people? Or have we just insulted someone by presuming their faith is just like “my” faith?

The yearlong explorations of the implications of the Torda 450 proclamation among Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists reminds us of the difficulties and the promise of conversations. We theologians did not always agree, yet we are part of the same religion. We had discussions that did not reach definitive resolutions, but signaled the promise of the conversations: we become better, more open, more fully Unitarian and Universalist.

Continuing the conversations and discussions may still not achieve a ten point list of solutions. But we model, for ourselves and others, something important for the world today. We model how community happens. We model that interfaith is not a futile project but an ongoing challenge, not a call for war or extermination, a brutal and violent choice made by some nations today. We model how faith can make us individually whole.