

## **Preparation for G150 – Mission Centered Church**

In the old days, the designations were “pastoral” or “program”— terms related to the size of the congregation and how we relate and work together. Instead of “program-sized” church, we offer another way of looking at it —“*mission*-centered church.” For this session we will focus on our mission statement developed by the congregation in 1992.

Our mission statement doesn't fit on the back of a business card; it reads more like a credo than a motto. Still, this statement speaks the truth about how we strive to be in relationship to each other and the world: growing, learning, celebrating, healing, acting, giving and loving.

### **Mission Statement**

The First Unitarian Church of San José is an open and inclusive community committed to promoting the values and principles of Unitarian Universalism in the Santa Clara Valley. As individuals and in community, we seek to deepen our understanding of Unitarian Universalist principles and to embody them in our lives, that in bold and loving ways we can become agents for spiritual growth, healing, social justice, compassion, and joy. We will live out the goals of the church through our commitments to meaningful worship, ritual, and celebration, to providing opportunities for religious education, growth, service, and fun for all ages, to fostering the process of becoming a diverse and multicultural congregation, and to dedicating ourselves to service that contributes to justice in our local community and in the world.

For this preparation, please do the following:

1. First read the mission statement slowly and aloud.
2. Ponder a word or phrase that touches your heart. Ask yourself where the word or phrase touches your life.
3. Ask yourself what the word or phrase is calling you to do. Ask yourself what the word or phrase is calling us as a congregation to do.
4. Do we, as a church, need to change who we are to reflect this mission better? Are we being what we say we want to be?