

## Preparation for G236 — Standing on the Side of Love

*This session was based on a session from [standingonthesideoflove.org](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org). For the original see: <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/SSL-Small-Group.pdf>*

In this session we explore the links between love and justice. We do this because Sunday, February 14, 2010, is National Standing on the Side of Love Day. Our congregation will join other communities of faith across the country to celebrate a Valentine's Day reimagined. Love is about more than romance, greeting cards and chocolates. This week we celebrate love's power to transform communities. National Standing on the Side of Love Day is part of the Standing on the Side of Love campaign, which seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. The Unitarian Universalist Association sponsors the campaign and we can all get involved by visiting <http://www.StandingontheSideofLove.org>.

Love is a complex topic. The word is used to describe the strong bond between family members, between romantic partners, between friends. Love is also used to describe a feeling we can have for all of humanity, or all of the earth — even for people, places, and animals we don't know. Religious traditions through the ages have linked love with justice, drawing on the very human tendencies to treat those we love more generously and justly.

In this session we'll talk about love's transforming power, each of us speaking from the heart about how we're moved to show love to our hurting society and our hurting world.

1. Carter Heyward writes: "Love creates righteousness, or justice, here on earth." When or where have you seen examples of this in your own life?
2. What are some ways you see yourself standing on the side of love?
3. Describe your journey of understanding the call to stand on the side of love
4. What are some ways you see your Unitarian Universalist congregation standing on the side of love? In the past, the present, and the future?
5. What barriers do we face, individually or collectively, to standing publicly on the side of love?
6. Carter Heyward writes, "Love is a conversion to humanity—a willingness to participate with others in the healing of a broken world and broken lives." Where and how are you willing to participate in this healing?
7. Which of our Unitarian Universalist Principles call you to stand on the side of love?