

Rev. Claire Feingold Thoryn with Ministerial Intern Hillary Collins-Gilpatrick

Theme: "Bodies"

Questions submitted during Follen's annual Question Box Service

January 3, 2016

Italicized questions were read and answered extemporaneously during the service:

- 1) *If you could give your Follen flock one suggestion, what would it be?*
- 2) *Do you have a prayer practice? Please tell us something about it. How did you start praying? What is prayer's greatest benefit for you? What is prayer's greatest challenge for you? Do you have a favorite prayer?*
- 3) *How do you continue to deepen your spiritual practice when you are feeling low, with lack of energy?*
- 4) *Claire and Hillary, What have you learned from each other?*
- 5) *Why bother to go to church if you don't believe in God?*
- 6) *What is your favorite UU joke?*
- 7) *What UU Principle doesn't get the love and attention it should?*
- 8) *The church is doing very well under your leadership. How are you dealing with the very few who are not happy with your ministry?*
- 9) What do you do for self-care?
- 10) What is your greatest hope for Follen's future?
- 11) What keeps preventing one (me) from getting rid of stuff? I need to unload, but I keep holding on. For what end?
- 12) Will we ever do a service at the Roxbury UU again with the Urban Ministry?
- 13) I think a lot about "small" works vs. making more dramatic difference in helping the world. How do others think about it?
- 14) What will the new DCE actually do?

- 15) Who is the amazing woman in the 7th row and is she seeing anybody?
- 16) In your opinion, why do (most) people wish to believe in something larger than themselves?
- 17) What is your biggest challenge at Follen?
- 18) One must have a sense of humor to survive!
- 19) Hillary, what do you want to do next?
- 20) Why do people suffer? What is the purpose of suffering? Is there a purpose?
- 21) What is the difference between each other and one another?
- 22) How important is the view?
- 23) Does the church have any plans to mount an effort to stop trump – should he get the republican nomination?
- 24) 2016 yikes! How does one maintain any measure of civil self-restraint in the face of the outrageous racist, xenophobic, homophobic, sexist and intolerant hate speech that now passes for acceptable campaign rhetoric. And it is not just 2 or 3 candidates saying nasty things – it seems all candidates for a major party's nomination feel compelled to compete in this race to the bottom. Or are we obligated to speak out?
- 25) What is one of your favorite aspects of being minister at Follen? And one of your least favorite?
- 26) I am not comfortable with death at all. It really scares me. Are there any words you can offer to help me?
- 27) Hillary and Claire – How can we be most helpful to you?
- 28) If you could add one principle to the seven UU Principles what would it be?
- 29) If you could be any animal, what would it be and why?
- 30) Do you believe in ghosts?
- 31) Is UU a religion?
- 32) Why is doing the selfish thing so often rewarded over doing the thing that is good for all?

- 33) When does prayer actually work?
- 34) Do you think we should know the Lord's Prayer?
- 35) Do you believe in God?
- 36) Do you pray? What is foremost in your prayer?
- 37) What have you both learned from each other?
- 38) What is the difference between praying and wishing?
- 39) How do you approach a liberal who is showing prejudice?
- 40) Tell us about your experience of the tensions of moving forward in our church vs, our fears of losing something old and valued.
- 41) What is our congregations greatest challenge? What is this a test of, oh lover of tests?
- 42) Who is god to you?
- 43) Did you know penguins, if depressed, will walk off for many miles until they die? #owl
- 44) How do fish ~~have sex~~ mate? #owlthrowback
- 45) What is your favorite color?
- 46) Do you ever get writer's block and if so what do you do?
- 47) Hillary, what will you miss most about Follen?
- 48) Do non-corporeal, sentient spirits exist? Is there a spirit world? What is it like?
- 49) What drew you to ministry? When? What is the path to it?
- 50) What vision do you have for Follen?
- 51) At social events, how do you reply to, "So, what do you do?" Is it a conversation stopper?
- 52) Hillary, when can we begin join spiritual guidance?
- 53) If you can execute on a privilege, should you?