INDEPENDENCE TO COMMUNITY

UUCP DIALOGUE JULY 8, 2018, developed by Dolly Berthelot

INDEPENDENCE TO COMMUNITY

QUOTES, CONCEPTS TO PONDER, DISCUSS:

❖ **INDEPENDENCE**   ❖ **INDIVIDUALISM**
❖ **INTERDEPENDENCE**   ❖ **COMMUNITY**

DIRECTIONS FOR DIALOGUE:

Please mix to sit in groups of 6-7, ideally separate from spouses, partners, or closest friends. Each group should have one notebook. Volunteer, please jot a few notes.

DIRECTIONS

Take a moment to silently read and consider quotes in each category. You will have 4-5 minutes to discuss each of four concepts. We'll share a bit in whole group if time allows.

When dialogue begins, please respect and listen to each person's comments. Allow time for each contributor (with no inappropriate domination), and keep confidences as warranted or requested. Also honor silence, if chosen.

Quotes will project separately for each of four dialogues. Quickly read all quotes on Independence, for example, then discuss that particular concept. Mention any quotes you may find salient. We will focus separately on each concept, but it's OK to mention others any time. They are inter-related anyway.

As you discuss, please try to consider and share from your own personal experiences rather than merely abstract ideas.

SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

How do you interpret, think, and feel about each concept?

Have your understanding of and feelings about each concept changed over time, perhaps with different exposures, experiences, WANTS and NEEDS evolving over decades? How and why do you think this is?

Might your responses vary if you differed in age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic level, religion, health, personality, etc.?

❖ INDEODENCE

Independence....is loyalty to one's best self and principles, and this is often disloyalty to the general idols and fetishes. *Mark Twain*

The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.
Denis Waitley

The price for independence is often isolation and solitude.
Steve Schmidt

"Independence"... [is] middle-class blasphemy. We are all dependent on one another, every soul of us on earth.
G.B. Shaw, Pygmalion

❖ INDIVIDUALITY

GOOGLE: 12,100,000

No one should part with their individuality and become that of another. *William Ellery Channing*

The privilege of a lifetime is being who you are. *Joseph Campbell*

To be nobody but yourself in a world which is doing its best day and night to make you everybody else means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight, and never stop fighting. *e.e. cummings*

Do not wish to be anything but what you are, and try to be that perfectly. *Saint Francis De Sales*

❖ INTERDEPENDENCE

GOOGLE: only 856,000!

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part. *7th UUA Principle*

Interdependence is a choice only independent people can make. *Steven Covey*

Dialogue changes isolation and loneliness into connection and interdependence. This, I believe, is the essence of Buddhism. *Vinessa Shaw*

We can either emphasize those aspects of our traditions, religious or secular, that speak of hatred, exclusion, and suspicion *or* work with those that stress the interdependence and equality of all human beings. The choice is yours. *Karen Armstrong*

❖ COMMUNITY

GOOGLE: 1,170,000,000!!

Communication leads to community, that is, to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing. *Rollo May*

The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members. *Coretta S. King*

We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community. *Dorothy Day*

When I am with a group of human beings committed to hanging in there through both the agony and the joy of community, I have a dim sense that I am participating in a phenomenon for which there is only one word...."glory." *M. Scott Peck*

Closing Words

…**value the variety
of our ever-changing world
and appreciate
the interdependence
that makes us one.**

Dolly Berthelot