

Unity of Bellevue

Steward Our Center Strategy: Offering Introduction by a Member of the Board of Trustees

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for our community to engage in the spiritual practice of giving, particularly in support of our Mission and Vision.

Themes and Concepts

- Giving of our financial good to the source of our spiritual inspiration is a spiritual practice that grows us.
- We give to duplicate the giving nature of the Universe, to become more God-like; it is easy and natural to give back to that which has given so freely to us.
- Our giving is a demonstration of our faith that we are amply provided for.

Issues

- There is a cultural bias against giving to churches (churches should somehow thrive without money). "They are just out for the money."
- Many believe that spirituality and money is somehow are in conflict with one another. "Spirituality should be free."
- Newcomers may feel uncomfortable with the idea of giving financially to our Center.
- Many people get "triggered" around any discussion of or ask for money, regardless of the context.

Skills

- We need to be able to ask for financial support:
 - ✓ without engaging any unresolved issues of our own around money, especially around fear of "not enough."
 - ✓ from a position of clarity about giving as a spiritual practice.
 - ✓ confident in the power of our Mission and Vision to attract financial support.
 - ✓ confident in the value we provide to our community and to the world.
 - ✓ free of any notion that we "need" money.
 - ✓ clear that our consciousness is cause in our experience of abundance, individually and as a Center.

Our ideal "ask" would:

- Set newcomers at ease about their role in the financial support of our Center.
- Identify financially supporting our Center with supporting our Mission and Vision.
- Teach that giving is a spiritual practice.
- Affirm our own abundance.
- Appropriately remind donors of how abundantly they are provided for.

With all this in mind, an introduction to giving could be something like:

Introduction

As we enter this time of giving in financial support of our Center, I want to put you at ease if you are new to our community or our teaching. The spiritual principles we teach are free, and the only thing we would like to receive from you this morning is a connection card so we can get connected and learn more about how we can serve you.

(Middle, option A)

For those of us who call this our spiritual home, we engage in giving as a spiritual practice. We give as a declaration of our faith that we are abundantly supported by the Universal Presence we call God. We joyfully give to this Center in particular because it is a source of spiritual inspiration to us, because we are waking up. We find spiritual inspiration here and we want to be a source of the awakening of others we serve, so we give generously toward creating our vibrant and thriving spiritual community of love.

(Middle, option B)

For those of us who call this our spiritual home, we engage in giving as a spiritual practice. We know that all there is and all we see and all we receive belongs to the Universal Presence we call God. We understand we are channels through which the Good that God is flows. We know that awakening people to their spiritual nature is the essence of awakening our planet, a place that is so ready to wake up. And so we give generously and with open hearts to this vibrant and thriving spiritual community of love.

(Middle, option C)

For those of us who call this our spiritual home, we engage in giving as a spiritual practice. Our financial gifts to this Center represent our commitment to waking up, to creating a vibrant and thriving spiritual community. As we learn and grow together, it is easy for us to remember that God is our source and that we give because God gives, because we have received so abundantly that we cannot wait to share with the source of our spiritual inspiration.

(Or write your own option D that is in language that is natural to you and also addresses the points on the previous page.)

Affirmation

In this consciousness, please join me as we declare our offering affirmation together: