



First United Methodist Church

Points to Ponder

Love is My Motivation

My participation with the Reconciling Team is one of the most meaningful things I have ever committed to in my life. The devotion of approximately forty members of this team gives me such hope for the future of this church and humanity. What does this devotion look like? I think it looks like love.

Knowing that God's love is unconditional is nothing new or revolutionary. But, we have to learn to reflect and demonstrate that love. The following poem about the nature of love, by Brian McLaren, helps me with that challenge:

- You can't learn to love people without being around actual people—including those who infuriate, exasperate, annoy, offend, frustrate, encroach upon, resist, reject, and hurt you, thus tempting you not to love them.
- You can't learn the patience that love requires without experiencing delay and disappointment.
- You can't learn the kindness that love requires without rendering yourself vulnerable to unkindness.
- You can't learn the generosity that love requires outside the presence of heartbreaking and unquenchable need.
- You can't learn the peaceableness that love requires without being enmeshed in seemingly unresolvable conflict.
- You can't learn the humility that love requires without moments of acute humiliation.
- You can't learn the determination that love requires without opposition and frustration.
- You can't learn the endurance that love requires without experiencing unrelenting seduction to give up.

- Lisa Kulp