

Bridging Ceremony 2006

David: Now I invite Alan Averill, Lenore Dukes, and Jason Spellman, who have asked to take part in the bridging ceremony today, to come forward with your families, and I ask our Board member Brian Haluska, [the YRUU adult advisors], Leia, and Leslie to join me.

LITANY OF BRIDGING

Leia: You who stand before us today have grown beyond the child you once were. With each new day, you learn more about yourself, your world, your loyalties and devotions. The wisdom you have gained in our free faith will serve you well on the journey before you. We honor you at this time of change and transformation.

Leslie: We honor the new perspectives you bring, and we stand with you as you face the uncertainties of a future you can not know. We bless you now, as you move into that future. We honor you at this time of change and transformation.

David: Today you take your new place among us, only to leave again soon, to pursue your life's journey. We bless you now, and pledge our support. We honor you at this time of change and transformation. I invite the congregation to join in the words for the Bridging Ceremony printed in your Bulletin Board insert.

Congregation: Today we recognize together a time of new beginnings. Leaving the security of the past is balanced with the excitement of embracing an uncertain future rich with possibility. We make this pledge with joy: To stand together with you in our free faith, with all the blessings and responsibilities it brings.

CEREMONY

Leslie: Alan, Lenore, Jason--Your parents have for each of you the gift of a candle, symbol of the light of life and the search for spiritual community which brought them here with you. I invite you to accept the gift and then to part from your parents with an embrace, and to step up to where (Pam, Breck, Leia?) is waiting to meet you.

Leia: [I/your advisors] have for each of you the gift of a book of poetry, symbol of the inspiration and knowledge we hope you have found in your time as a child and youth among us. I invite you to accept the gift and then to turn to the altar, where each of you may light your candle from any chalice that [speaks/appeals] to you, as a symbol of the light of faith you carry from this community into the world. Then place your candles on the table with the flowers as you move to where Brian is waiting to meet you.

Alan, Lenore, and Jason light their candles. Candles are placed on the table in the center where the vases are.

David: Brian stands to greet you with a welcoming hand as a representative of this congregation's Young Adults, a community which is now yours. He has for you a gift from the Unitarian Universalist Association to help you continue to find your path as a Unitarian Universalist in your journeys ahead. I invite you to receive his gift and greeting, and to return to the center where Leslie and I have one last gift for you.

Leslie: We began this service with a Child Dedication ceremony, giving each of the children a rose from which the thorns had been taken as a symbol of our wish to make their way smooth. Now we will give you a rose once again—but this time the thorns have not been removed. As young adults we hope you will grasp life with all its difficulties and sadness along with all its joys and beauties. We believe you are ready to face life's sharp edges.

David: May life greet you with all its richness and bounty, and may you know that you are never alone. And now as these young adults and their parents take their seats as adults together, let's all rise in body or spirit and join once more in singing "Come Sing a Song With Me."