

CIC Annual Meeting 2018 Interfaith Minister Remarks:

“Honor this longing, those that make you return, for whatever reason, to the spirit, be grateful to them. // Worry about the others, who give you delicious comfort that keeps you from prayer.”

~Rumi

During a recent meeting with a CIC member they said, “It take a village...and we’ve got one!”

- I. One of the most painful and wide-spread phenomena of the modern world is the sudden sense of isolation
 - A. Isolation from our traditional ways of wisdom and traditional practices
 - B. Social isolation even in the midst of a hyper-connected media technology
 - C. Isolation from our own inner wisdom or from the illuminating powers referred to in Rumi’s poem as the “spirit”
- II. Second half of Rumi’s poem warns to be worried about those that keep you from prayer (or from connection)
 - A. It is in this way that we are a counter-cultural community wherein we value relationship over possessions, we value authenticity over social status, we value spirituality over outer appearances
 1. That’s our village!
- III. Year and a half in and the work with the community has shaped and formed me in ways that I could not have anticipated
 - A. We have experienced death together as a community, we have experienced growth together, and we are always experiencing that which is new and wanting to be expressed
- IV. I want to close by reminding you all that I am a seeker, a student, and a listener
 - A. My hope and deep hunger is to hear from you in the ways that you experience this community, both in the ways that you are experiencing growth and joy and also the ways in which we could be doing more as a community
 - B. I also welcome feedback from you about your experience in celebrations and outside celebrations. Please tell me if you are feeling ways that we could improve, or ways that I could improve, as we continue to be a village that cares about the way it is in the world and cares about the way we are experiencing and growing in our commitments and involvement in this community.
 1. Billy Collins poem, “Feedback”