

Community Circles  
*Moving Forward – A Conversation with Brian Perry, with  
Rev. Melanie Eyre and Brian Perry*  
January 13, 2021



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*If you want something to change, you begin.*

*~ Brian Perry*

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I was so thrilled to have Brian join me for a conversation last Sunday on moving forward, how we are feeling and coping, and lessons learned from these tumultuous times. With such profound upheaval in our lives, our instinct is to jump in and “fix” the situations that cause us pain. We have the feeling, as Brian put it - “put me in, Coach!”  
*Do you share this feeling? How can we contribute to healing right where we are?*

Brian also told the story of a conversation with a friend to whom he confided that he was looking for change in his life. Her advice? “Duck!” When we ask for transformation, we are not always ready for how that will look or what actual changes will come. *What is your experience with that idea? Do you find it to be true in your life? Can we have change without uncertainty and risk? Would we want to?*

One of the important issues we raised impacts all of us. How do we maintain relationship and community with those who disagree with us on fundamental issues? We face this issue in our society, our families, and our friendships. In our society today, there is so much division and polarization – it seems we can’t simply disagree and move on. *Remember those days? What has changed? How do we address it?*

Brian related a conversation he had with some friends committed to converting him to a religious view different from his own, and after listening a while he stopped the conversation. Instead of simply declining to change, he thanked them for the love and care they were showing him by (in their view) trying to save his soul, which is the way they saw it. *What is your response to his story? What has been your experience in similar situations? Can we make space for these conversations? How?*

Brian closed the conversation by emphasizing that any change in our own lives or on the larger scale has to come through us, through our interactions with and commitment to each other. Great news – it comes back to our own actions. *Do you agree? What does this mean on the individual and community level?*

*Other thoughts?*