



12 WAYS FAITH COMMUNITIES COULD IMPROVE THE SOIL FOR DEMOCRACY

1

There is something and/or someone greater than ourselves, and greater than any nation.

2

The universe is creation and not simply “nature.”

3

How to interpret and keep high the importance of mystery, awe, and wonder.

4

Human beings are creatures and part of this living planet, we are groundlings, of the earth. “From dust... to dust.”

5

Human beings are equal before the Ultimate. All forms of inequality are human creations.

6

Human beings are mortal and fallible. Humility is a virtue.

7

Life is a gift; gratitude is a logical stance toward life.

8

How to deal with suffering and death.

9

Love is more powerful than hate. A religious community can be a leaven of love in society—or a leaven of hate.

10

The proper definition of peace as shalom (not merely the absence of conflict) includes both inner and outer dimensions.

11

Community is essential to develop healthy persons.

12

Religion’s ends/telos (to connect with the Ultimate) and the ends/telos of politics (govern, share power) are not the same.