

June 28, 2019

Along the Way: Evolving Together

This week, I heard Kerri Miller interviewing a young evangelical woman on the intersection of science and religion during *Women of Faith* (Minnesota Public Radio). The conversation made me appreciate that I am a part of a church that does not struggle with the compatibility of science and faith.

Evolution fits with our understanding of creation and God's creative energy. We see it every day in nature all around us. Life evolves—even if we are not paying attention or understanding our role in it. Yet, because of climate change, humans are having to face our impact on the planet as never before. We must admit that business as usual will not ensure our survival. No amount of doing more of the same, individually or collectively, will ever solve our problems in a sustainable way.

We must evolve. The only way to evolve is to be conscious—deeply conscious—about the state of things. It's an invitation to access the evolutionary impulse beyond our conditioned mind to new thinking. And if we do, we start changing.

If we are not living consciously, however, our ego will use every trick to keep us the same partly because homeostasis (keeping things stable) is critical to survival. For example, if our bodies do not maintain themselves within a certain temperature range, we cannot function. But growing through creative change is also critical: If we cannot adapt to shifts in our environment we cannot function, either. If we are not evolving to be more kind, loving and respectful to each other and our planet, we are stuck.

More often, we live in the tension between homeostasis and creative change. It becomes bearable, may I suggest even exciting, if we are open to conscious evolving. Our spiritual community is one place where we can evolve together. We can challenge each other to deeper levels of consciousness. We can hold each accountable when we get stuck. We can support each other when the changes seem too much.

Let's continue to be a congregation where evolution is celebrated.

—Paula Northwood