

Multigenerational Service: Legos, April 9 2017

If you have not heard me wax lyrical about Legos before, congratulations, you get to now. Because as far as I am concerned, Legos are by far one of the greatest toys out there. They are easy to build with and come in shapes and sizes for all ages to work with. In addition to being made for any age group, Legos are also totally genderless. Any kid can play with them, and when I was a kid Legos were marketed to me in largely the same way that they were marketed to my brother.

More pertinent to us, at UUCS, Legos are a phenomenal tool for learning, as well as community building. Through Legos kids learn about cause and effect, as well as physics. There is a very practical and literal application of the concept of cause and effect that happens when we play with Legos. It is a continual process of finding out what happens if we move this block here, or build this tower so high. This may seem fairly obvious, but when we work together on these things we also learn together. It is an opportunity to practice hearing other people's ideas and to try out different ways of compromising. With the incredible versatility of Legos there is also quite a lot of opportunity to be reminded that it's okay to start over and try again.

Last summer I spent quite a bit of time as a nanny for two boys, Micah and Noah. It was pretty often that I would go over to their house in the morning to find the two of them in the middle of their living room floor, Legos spread all around them. The order of events was always pretty predictable: the three of us would play happily together for a while, then inevitably someone would accidentally knock a tower over and there would be a wailing four year old on the floor. But coming back together after that was always the coolest thing. I got to help them understand that it's okay, we can start again and work together to rebuild. And through that process we came up with some of the most amazing space ships and airplanes. The tools that we learned and practiced in this process, carry through to other daily activities. Micah and Noah know, in a very real and tangible way, that working together to rebuild can result in unexpected and awesome things. They also know that 'sorry' doesn't cut when you hurt someone; the two of them have practiced, with Legos, helping one another feel better and moving forward together after that hurt. Whatever it may be.

I could continue on this thread forever, with all kinds of tangents. Not even about Legos; Micah and Noah are just two of my favorite people on the planet. But I figure that it is better for us to see these kinds of ideas about community in action, rather than just hear about it. So, if you participated in the Lego Day a couple weeks ago, I'd like to invite you forward for a brief moment.

These chalice pendants are a way of recognizing and honoring the creativity that you bring to our community. Your ideas and imagination make this church a better place for us all.

Now, if you brought someone to participate in the Lego Day, please stand (and remain standing). If you donated Legos to use at the Lego Day, please stand. If you helped out with or

organized the fundraising lunch that made the Lego Day possible, please stand. If you ate at that lunch, please stand. If you even just heard that the Lego Day was happening, please stand. If you have ever, in your life, played with Legos ever, please stand.

Look around you. This is the power of something like Legos. Around this one theme we have each thought about and had unique experiences and contributions. By working to create and build together, we have unified just a little bit more as a community.

There's this quote from the author, John Green, about imagining others complexly and about how important it is when we're trying to enact change and stuff. And, when we build community together, in this way, we are better able to imagine one another complexly. We can see each other has people with hopes and fears and cool ideas and not-so-cool ideas. And that makes us better able to teach and learn and grow, and bring the strength of our community out into the world.

Plus, it's just fun.

Before we sing together, I'd like to say, that if you have not walked around to look at what was built at the Lego Day, please take the opportunity to do so after the service. There's some really cool stuff up here.