

## **The Five Smooth Stones of Liberal Religion** *articulated by UU theologian James Luther Adams*

- ✿ We affirm that revelation is continuous. More truth is always unfolding, and we are “in constant dialogue with whatever is calling us.”<sup>1</sup> In the words of Adams, *Meaning has not been finally captured. Nothing is complete, and thus nothing is exempt from criticism.*
- ✿ In liberal religious community, we choose to be in relationship, freely and with consent — never with coercion. We don’t threaten one another with punishment.
- ✿ We believe that we have a moral obligation to work towards a just and loving community. We choose to put aside selfishness or individualism and focus on *how* we are in relationship with one another. JLA: *It is this which makes the role of the prophet central and indispensable in liberalism.*
- ✿ We believe that goodness must be embodied through us. JLA: *We deny the immaculate conception of virtue and affirm the necessity of social incarnation. Good things come about not through Divine intervention, but through the work of human hands.*<sup>2</sup>
- ✿ Liberal religious communities are storehouses and witnesses for “ultimate optimism.” We always have cause to hope.

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<sup>1</sup> Levoy.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/images/Big\\_Book\\_2011.pdf](http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/images/Big_Book_2011.pdf)