

Healing and Transformation in Small Groups

Saturday, October 29, 2011

9 AM to 4:30 PM

Registration, coffee and light breakfast starting at 8:30

Hosted by the First Unitarian Society of Newton

1326 Washington Street, West Newton, MA 02465

Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy, Leader

WORKSHOP PURPOSE: In the past decade many congregations have adopted Small Group Ministry or Covenant Groups to address the needs of friendship and spiritual growth in our congregations. This workshop is aimed at facilitators who are eager to take the group experience to a higher level. The focus of our day will be exploring the question, "What leads to healing and transformation in small groups?" We'll cover topics such as inviting epiphanies; what is spiritual growth and what nurtures it; cultivating respect; creating a compassionate group environment; developing your presence as a facilitator; using all of our capacities as facilitators – heart and mind, left and right hemispheres; facilitation as a spiritual practice; how to recover after goofs and engender a forgiving group environment. The workshop will help You enjoy facilitating more and make the group experience as transformational and vitalizing as possible for Yourself and the other participants. We'll end with how to bring this powerful work back to our congregations and out into our aching, broken world. (Please note that we won't be covering the how-to's and basics of SGM).

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: The workshop is aimed primarily at facilitators who have some experience (preferably at least a year). It works very well to have in the mix a few inexperienced people (such as new facilitators or board members) who can learn from and be carried along by the more experienced members. So, a few inexperienced folks are welcome to participate with a prior okay from Rev. Kennedy.

LEADER: Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy is passionate about the power of Small Groups to feed our souls and help heal our ills. Her doctoral dissertation at the University of Illinois was on worldview transformation in small Groups. She has been involved with lay led small groups for over 30 years as a facilitator, trainer, organizer, researcher and writer. Participants tend to love her workshop and come away with fresh perspectives and renewed enthusiasm about their work as facilitators. Rev. Kennedy is a co-founder of the UU Small Group Ministry Network, and started and served for four years as editor of the Small Group Ministry Quarterly. She lives in Vermont where she serves three Universalist congregations in Barre, Strafford and Washington.

Directions: The First Unitarian Society in Newton, is located at 1326 Washington Street in West Newton, Massachusetts, at the corner of Washington and Highland streets. FUSN is across from the Newton police station, near the West Newton Cinema, where Route 16 crosses the Mass. Turnpike.

Fee, Registration & Lunch : The workshop fee, which includes an information packet, is \$45 for one person and \$ 35 for each additional person from the same congregation. \$25 for seminarians. Please bring a sack lunch or potluck dish to share. Please register by September 19, 2011. The registration form is attached or downloadable at www.smallgroupministry.net.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR
Healing and Transformation in Small Groups

Saturday, October 29, 2011

8:30 AM to 4 PM

Registration, coffee and light breakfast starting at 8:30, workshop at 9

Hosted by the First Unitarian Society of Newton

Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy, Leader

NAME _____

MAIL ADDRESS

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

CONGREGATION / SEMINARY/CITY

NUMBER OF YEARS YOU'VE BEEN FACILITATING _____

WHAT, IF ANY, PRESSING QUESTION, ISSUE, OR IDEA DO YOU BRING?

PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL NEEDS:

Please fill out a separate registration form for each participant

FEE: The workshop fee, which includes an information packet, is \$40 for one person and \$35 for each additional person from the same congregation. \$25 for seminarians. Make checks payable to "Rev. M'ellen Kennedy", with "SGM Workshop" in the memo line. Please bring a sack lunch or potluck dish to share. Please register by October 25, 2011

QUESTIONS? Contact Rev. M'ellen Kennedy at mellenken@aol.com or 802-453-5469.

TOTAL enclosed: _____ for _____ participants.

Mail To: Rev. M'ellen Kennedy, 3764 Quaker St., Bristol, VT 05443