

Small Group Ministry & Covenant Group Introduction & Facilitator Training Saturday, September 22, 2012, 9-4:30

Registration and Coffee starting at 8:30 AM

Hosted by the First Church in Barre – Universalist, 19 Church Street, Barre, VT

People come to church seeking an opportunity to make friends and to explore their spirituality. **Many congregations across the country are finding that offering healthy, well-designed, facilitated small groups is an excellent way to address these needs of both visitors and long-term members.** Why are these groups so powerful? How do these groups revitalize our congregations? How do we design not just a group, but an overall program of small groups to help members and congregations thrive and grow? What is it like to be in a group? What's necessary to be an effective facilitator? What are the pitfalls and the promises of these kinds of groups?

The Barre Universalist Church is delighted to host this Small Group Ministry or Covenant Group workshop to answer these questions and more. The morning session (9 to 12:30) will be an introduction to Covenant Groups and is designed to help those new to the concept get a firm grounding. The morning will also serve as an excellent refresher for those with some knowledge of Covenant Groups already. The afternoon (1:00 to 4:30) is for those who will be facilitating or are just beginning to consider facilitating, whether this year or in the future. No prior experience is required for either the morning or the afternoon. **You are welcome to attend just the morning, or just the afternoon, or both.** The training will include two actual group experiences which is the best way to help You understand experientially the power and dynamics of these kinds of groups.

LEADER: Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy is a Small Group Ministry Consultant and co-founder of the SGM Network. She is a UU community minister and community psychologist who has been working with lay-led small groups for over 25 years. Her doctoral dissertation was on world view transformation in small groups. She has offered facilitator training internationally to hundreds of lay and professionals leaders and feedback on her workshops has been excellent. Rev. M'ellen also serves as consulting minister for the churches in Barre and Washington, Vermont. The following is a quote from a participant at a workshop offered by Rev. Kennedy in New Hampshire in recent years.

*The workshop was utterly amazing -- informative, helpful, and inspiring!
I am so grateful to you for offering the workshop, and look forward to spreading the word
and the concepts. SGM has such great potential to strengthen and deepen,
the relationships and spirituality in our congregation. Thank you, thank you, many times over.*

For more info, contact Rev. M'ellen Kennedy at mellenken@aol.com or 802-479-0114.

DIRECTIONS & PARKING: call the church at 802-479-0114 or visit our web site
<http://firstchurchbarreu.org/map.html>

REGISTRATION: Please send this completed form and your check by **SEPTEMBER 20th**
to Doug Blanchard, Secretary, Barre Universalist Church, PO Box 764, Barre, VT 05641

NAME _____

MAIL ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____

CONGREGATION// CITY _____

Lunch & Fee: Please bring a sack lunch. The program is free for members of the Barre Universalist Church, but please register to help us in planning. For others, there is a minimal fee to offset the cost of the handouts and facility usage.

I enclose a check to "Barre Universalist Church" with "CGWorkshop" in the memo line for this amount:

Sat. AM only (9-12:30) ___ \$10 Sat. PM only (1-4:30) __ \$10 All Day __ \$15 TOTAL enclosed: _____