

MAKING/KEEPING YOUR PROGRAM VISIBLE

Making Your SGM Program Available to Current Members

From a training session by Susan Hollister, Treasurer, UU SGM Network

If your church members understand your small group ministry program, they'll be more likely to want to join a group.

So, how would you help your church members understand your small group ministry program and how to join a group?

- * fliers,
- * brochures,
- * newsletter articles,
- * pulpit announcements,
- * a page on the church website,
- * a bulletin board display,
- * an information table during Coffee Hour.

Other ideas:

- * a small group ministry Sunday with a sermon by the minister or testimonials from participants. Having the minister promote the program makes it exciting and credible. If the Minister thinks it's a good thing, people are more motivated to join.
- * An installation service or a formal recognition of all the facilitators and group members during a Sunday service make the program welcoming.

Editor's Note: Providing openings throughout the year is important to making sgm available to everyone. This might require recruiting and training new facilitators when a new group is needed or having a few trained facilitators in reserve.

A Note on Keeping Your Program Visible

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and Board Member, UU SGM Network

At Manatee Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, we try all year to keep Small Group Ministry on everyone's mind. When we disbanded for the summer, we had 19 participants in three groups which we call Chalice Circles. Pretty good for our small congregation of 90 folks.

We have a new colorful poster up which was designed in the spring. As we regroup in September, we will have an article in our newsletter, the Update, at least every 2 months, telling what sort of service we give to the church and the community and something about the value of Chalice Circles. On the last Sunday of each month, we set up a table in the Social Room with information about Chalice Circles and one of the facilitators stays by the table to talk to anyone who stops by. There are always brochures and registration forms in the Social Room for people to pick up. A brochure is also in the New Member packet so new members become acquainted with Chalice Circles right from the start.