

# SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES/REFLECTION FOR SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network

This Continuum is a way of *describing* service activities in the context of Small Group Ministry. The columns show progression, and all three columns factor into the consideration of service undertaken in Small Group Ministry.

Is involvement in a service activity inclusive: do members have the resources (time, money, transportation) to participate?

*Does the service activity engage the interests of the Small Group members?*

*How does the service activity enhance the spiritual development of the group members and/or the development of the group itself?*

*Is the service activity practical?*

SCOPE OF SERVICE?	WHO BENEFITS?	INVOLVEMENT?
<p>Within the Congregation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Session plans topic</li> <li>*Serving for Fellowship Hour</li> <li>*Paint a room or other maintenance jobs at church</li> <li>*Meals for family in crisis</li> <li>*Recycle</li> <li>*Provide or assist with a worship service.</li> </ul>	<p>Congregation as a whole</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*The Small Group members themselves --bonding within the group</li> <li>*Congregants as building and services are more accessible</li> <li>*New energy within the congregation.</li> </ul>	<p>Indirect involvement, lower commitment, "Spectator" service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Writing checks</li> <li>*Contribute to fundraisers, such as bake sales</li> <li>*Bring food for food pantry</li> </ul>
<p>Local Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Food Pantry, Soup Kitchen</li> <li>*Adopt a Highway</li> <li>*Make "survivor" kits for homeless shelter</li> <li>*Witness for a cause – marches, stand in protest</li> </ul>	<p>Congregants and others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Anyone who used the building and made arrangements.</li> <li>*Interfaith community</li> </ul>	<p>More active involvement, increased use of resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Organize a fundraiser</li> <li>*Make phone calls</li> <li>*Drive people to appointments</li> <li>*Contribute blood</li> </ul>
<p>World</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*UU Service Committee: Guest at Your Table</li> <li>Christmas cards</li> <li>Special appeals</li> </ul>	<p>Ever larger community, near and far</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Unitarian Universalism and its place in the global community.</li> </ul>	<p>Direct involvement, high commitment, hands-on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Join a building project</li> <li>*Witness for a cause – marches, stand in protest</li> </ul>

*The possibilities are endless; the benefits everlasting*

## Service Opportunity Reflection

Please share information about a Small Group Ministry Service Project from you congregation. If you have not completed one, think about something that you might like to do.

Name of congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Geographical location \_\_\_\_\_

Size of congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Your own covenant group

How long had you been meeting when you started working on the project? \_\_\_\_\_

How many people in your group? \_\_\_\_\_

What was your service project? Title \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description:

How did you choose it?

What were the factors to consider that led to your decision?

Who received the benefit?

How many in your group were actively involved in the project?

How much work/time was involved?

What were the benefits to your group?

What, if anything, would you do differently in planning/carrying out a service project?

We have included congregational Service Projects in Network publications. May we share your story in Network publications, with acknowledgement to the congregation? Yes\_\_ No\_\_

Person completing the form (in case we want to contact you further): \_\_\_\_\_