

SGM JOURNAL

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Archives available on www.smallgroupministry.net

NETWORK NEWS



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE NETWORK!

General Assembly 2014 marks the **tenth** anniversary of the UU Small Group Ministry Network! Stop by Booth # 723 and help us celebrate this landmark event. Read highlights of our 10 years on page 10. We couldn't have done it without YOU!

Online Resource Section Revised

Our extensive listings include General Resources, Focused Resources for specific topics, an Online Directory of hundreds of articles, and the new SGM Brochures section. See all at <http://www.smallgroupministry.net/public.html>

Welcome New Network Members!

Since January 2014, UU Fellowship of Southern Maryland, UU Congregation of the South Jersey Shore, First Unitarian Church of Cleveland, UU Church of Tampa, and All Souls Unitarian Church of Indianapolis have become supporting members.

Coming Soon! Members Section On the Web

View SGM activities, ask questions, leave comments, and communicate online with member congregations. Access limited to current members of the SGM Network.

Verify status: membership@smallgroupministry.net

Shop the Online Store

Purchase books and CDs from the Network using PayPal, credit card, debit card, or check. Gift vouchers available.

Visit: <http://www.smallgroupministry.net/sgmstore>

Network Member Congregations

See your congregation's name on the membership list. Learn who else in your district and region is a Network member and valued supporter.

<http://www.smallgroupministry.net/membership.html>

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Our Mission:

"To help create healthy congregations and a vital Unitarian Universalist movement by promoting and supporting Small Group Ministry."

Who We Are:

The UU Small Group Ministry Network, a UUA Related Organization, is a non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. We provide support to small group ministry programs in UU congregations through training opportunities, networking, and the development of new resources.

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Archives are available on the SGM Network website.

Deep Listening, by Mary-Elizabeth Cotton

UU Fellowship of the Peninsula, Newport News, VA

Let us listen...

Just for a while

Let us silence our minds

And open our hearts.

Just for a while

Let us listen from within.

Listen...

Not to gain knowledge,

Not to formulate questions,

Rather to chance upon

Sacred bonds and

Profound wisdom.

Just for a while

Let us not seek information

Or answers.

Let us not rouse the intellect

But embrace the spirit.

If thoughts cloud the brain

May we let them pass.

If replies tingle on the tongue.

Let us breathe them away silently.

Return to them later

But here...

Here in this precious time of sharing

Let us listen...

Let the words wash over us

And seep into a still, quiet pool.

Let us listen.



Giving Life the Shape of Justice: Small Group Ministry as Missional Religious Community

By Rev. Nathan Alan Hollister, Mutual Aid
Carrboro, North Carolina
Sacred Fire Unitarian Universalist

*“Sunday morning is the show,
small groups are the church!”*

These words are from Rick Warren, the minister of one of the largest evangelical megachurches in the country. And although I would tend to see many things differently than he, I wholeheartedly agree with this particular sentiment. What is the work of the church, the fellowship, the congregation? I push against what is referred to as “the primacy of worship.” When we think of “church” in the common sense, our minds tend to go immediately to Sunday morning worship. But is this truly the only place—or even the primary place—that our congregations impact our lives...not to mention the world? Perhaps we can consider the primacy of the lives we live and how our faith informs them, or, perhaps, the primacy of the small group.

I lead a fledgling but rapidly growing *missional community* in North Carolina called Mutual Aid Carrboro. We are an alternate model of religious community for folks who want to be in covenant with us and our work but aren't particularly interested in the traditional congregation. Being *missional* means that our approach is one of “going to them,” which differs from the “build it and they will come” or *attractional* model that most of our congregations function from. Our work here in NC is to grow a deliberate community from which to act for justice in the world.

Why is this relevant to small group ministry? Because our model—a model common to missional communities in other faiths—is based on small group ministry. Instead of joining the organization as a whole, to be part of Mutual Aid Carrboro one joins a small group! Imagine if, when you signed the member book in your congregation, you are at the same time joining a covenant group. Imagine that being part-and-parcel with your membership, contribution, and participation in your faith community.

The strengths of religious-community-as-small-group-ministry are many and varied. SGM Journal readers will likely be familiar with the growth in relational intimacy gained through participation in small groups, especially within large congregations. Many of us have come to know that *depth* in our UU faith is often found most markedly in those shared moments in our covenant

groups. One way of looking at this is a phrase that comes from those of a missional mindset, and that is “to grow smaller in order to do bigger things.”

The church consultant guru Lorne Meade talks about the different types of growth in congregations. There is numerical growth, of course, but there is also spiritual growth (depth of faith), relational growth (our interdependence), and incarnational growth (our capacity to transform the world). My belief is that these latter three areas of growth are best achieved through small groups, and that is what we focus on here in Carrboro.

We are guided by the Sacred Fire curriculum which I began developing while in seminary at Meadville Lombard. It starts with a UU theology of social justice and progresses through commensurate ethics and processes of social change that those theological convictions call for. The content draws both from our own liberal theological tradition and from the tradition of liberation theology of Latin America. Our small group sessions center around themes of the co-creation of meaning, anti-oppression work, how to be in solidarity with other communities, and building viable alternatives to what currently exists in our society. Our outward projects take the form of social justice work and are ongoing in the community. We practice ethical consumption, we distribute food to families in need, we have helped to form a tenants' empowerment organization, and have organized three OWL training for our cluster congregations and community partner organizations. We have plans to become more involved with living wage campaigns and much more!

The power of this model is in the impact it has on our day-to-day lives. Because most of us are young adults and tend to have odd and differing work schedules, we have found the small group model to be the one that holds the most accessibility for us, where Sunday mornings often did not. In fact, when we began, most of us worked in the food service industry, which means late Saturday nights and early Sunday brunches! That, along with our thirst for depth, helped lead us to this model. We have found small group ministry to be a wonderful vehicle for making religion or faith, as we say, *coincident with life*. Through our model, we have come to apply our life narrative of justice and interdependence to the places we live, to how we eat, and to how we work. Trust me, you need to get in on this!

For us, “church” is Monday through Saturday. Sunday is when we celebrate!

To learn more about our missional community and our social justice work, visit our website at www.sacredfireuu.org, or contact us at mutualaidcarrboro@gmail.com.

Resurrecting Small Group Ministry: The Story Continues

By Rev. Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull, Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden, Connecticut

In the previous issue of the SGM Journal you perhaps read the first installment of the story of resurrecting small group ministry (SGM) at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden, CT. Consider it a case study, which may provide some wisdom of experience if you too are in a congregation where small group ministry has once been, has faded, and you hope to begin again. Count on three chapters. Hopefully there will be many more chapters, but we invite you to share your own accounts of launching and of resurrecting this transformative form of ministry embraced not just in the UU world, but across faith traditions.

To bring you up to date, at the UU Church in Meriden we are building on an earlier form of SGM and on my experience as minister launching SGM successfully in another UU congregation (where it continues alive and well). As of the initial chapter, the SGM Coordinating Team was in place and we were inviting folks to serve as facilitators and co-facilitators. An introductory article ran in the congregation's November newsletter. Launch Sunday was projected for December 15, when we would focus on SGM in the worship service and follow the service directly by an abbreviated experience of SGM open to all, with the option of signing up at that time for groups that would begin to meet in January.

Murphy showed up along with his Law, though not in the extreme. Many years ago, Peter Bowden told me that in launching Small Group Ministry, "Start as you wish to continue." That counsel proved valuable in my prior experience, and I have passed this on to our Coordinating Team. Not having the facilitators completely in place in December and with the holidays consuming prime time, we postponed the launch Sunday until January.

"Intimacy and Ultimacy," the two nodes of Small Group Ministry dynamics, comprised the common thread of worship on Sunday, January 15. Led by our community minister Rev. Rick Klimowicz and me, as members of the SGM Coordinating team, we noted that:

"Today we're launching and, for some of you, re-launching, a form of ministry that invites each of us to fill our well and share the water. What does this mean?"

What it means unfolded in song, story, readings, a collaborative sermon, and the post-service sampling of a SGM session. The service was well attended, and the post-service mini-session drew 24 participants. Many others expressed their interest but were not able to stay.

By that time we had identified seven facilitators, enough for four groups—two adult groups, one intergenerational group (adults and teens), and a group designed singularly for parents of Coming of Age (COA) youngsters, with their SGM curriculum drawn from our UUA Coming of Age resources. Each group except the COA parents meets twice a month—two on weekday evenings and one on a Saturday morning. SGM sessions will convene this first year through early June.

All participants are invited to a potluck on May 30. At this event, we'll share experiences, evaluate the structure of SGM (like/change/let go), and set the vision for next year's SGM, which will commence in early October. The Coordinating Team is identifying who will continue as facilitators and who will join as new facilitators and is determining meeting times that will begin in early October and again, run through early June. Current participants will have enjoyed an early choice of groups for next year, with additional congregants and friends signing on directly after this event so we will be ready to re-commence in the fall.

But let's back up to the facilitator training. Our Community Minister and I led this critical launch segment in mid-January, shortly after SGM Sunday. We allowed a full Saturday morning for this, with an understanding that SGM facilitators were also committing to meet with us once a month, to address common experiences and challenges and to enjoy their own SGM session, albeit abbreviated.

February marked the first group sessions, with 37 members and friends participating. The Coming of Age parent group began a few weeks later than the other groups, given the challenge of fine-tuning the overall COA schedule. All groups are meeting at the church, with the exception of the intergenerational group, which meets regularly at the home of one of the co-facilitators. The first session addressed "How we are named"—an in-depth approach to getting to know one another. The second session addressed "Purpose and Promise" and was geared toward finalizing a Behavioral Covenant for each group, using a template provided by the Coordinating Team. Each group adapted it to their needs, with a given

that all groups would commit to two service projects before year's end—one for the benefit of the congregation and one for the benefit of the larger community.

Comments of facilitators and participants have been encouraging. Facilitator Diane Szymaszek reported after the first four sessions:

“I feel as each meeting takes place we are becoming more comfortable with each other and connecting more and more. ...I can only imagine what it will be like after many more times together.”

The Coordinating Team has thus far led two monthly facilitator meetings, not counting the initial facilitator training. Participation has been 100%. Facilitators with the guidance of the coordinating team are in the process of crafting a Facilitators' Covenant, a corollary to the Behavioral Covenant adopted by each group. The Coordinators Team has met monthly since November to ensure that we will indeed “continue as we begin” and that the beginning continues with the promise I have reported.

Small Group Ministry at UU Meriden is now in its third month. Groups are continuing with session plans that address “Letting Go” (early April) and “Hope” (late April) and are planning their service ventures. What will these service ventures be? With what enthusiasm will participants engage in them? How will folks reflect on their SGM experience thus far? How many current facilitators will opt in for the autumn? What will be the impact of a facilitators' covenant? How will SGM contribute to the vitality of the entire congregation? Stay tuned.



VISIBILITY FOR VITALITY: Small Group Ministry Brochures

From the Publications Team of the UU Small Group Ministry Network

Small group ministry brochures greatly improve our ability to communicate efficiently with congregation members, friends, visitors, and newcomers. A brochure can be a valuable tool for explaining what small group ministry (SGM) is all about, answering questions, and promoting a sign-up period or event.

A 4-6 panel brochure increases program visibility by:

1. explaining the purpose of small group ministry,
2. informing and educating your congregation,
3. getting members, friends, and newcomers interested and involved,
4. offering a path toward spiritual enrichment and significant relationships, and
5. presenting a condensed version of program guidelines and website information.

SGM brochures can be included in visitor and new member packets, distributed at Path to Membership and New UU classes, displayed at coffee hour and on the Welcome Table, and given out from the SGM Information Table during annual sign-up periods.

Basic elements to include in your SGM Brochure are:

Program and congregation name
 Program purpose and mission
 Benefits of group membership
 Meeting place and schedule
 Year length/duration
 Expectations of participants
 Defining elements of SGM
 What happens at a meeting
 How to join a group
 How to learn more

Brochures contributed by congregations are now being posted on the SGM Network website.

Go to <http://smallgroupministry.net/visibilityvitality.html> for development guidelines, then look through the posted brochures for ideas on content, wording, graphics, and presentation.

We invite you to share **your** brochure with fellow SGM leaders. Send in .pdf format to cgneditor@smallgroupministry.net for posting online.

Bringing SGM Growth Into Our Practical Lives

By Rae Ramsey, All Souls Unitarian Church, New York City, New York

It was late, and I was preparing last minute details for the next day's clients when the phone rang. I knew it must be an emergency, as I've asked my clients to spare me from late night calls unless there's an urgent issue. Sure enough, it was a dear friend, with an anxious tone in her voice. "Mom's fallen and broken her jaw, and I'm at the hospital with her now." Immediately, I sat down and let go of all other thoughts. "How bad is she? What do the doctors say? How are you handling all this?" Out came a torrent of emotion, concern, fear, frustration, confusion, and anxiety.

I went into listening mode, offering a steady presence so that she could let it all out and start to sort out all the possible next steps. A question here, a calm "uh-huh" there, an occasional "...and then?" She finally got to the end of her tale and I then summarized what she had told me and the options she felt she had at this crucial moment. Not offering advice, I helped her sort it out until she came up with a plan for the next couple of days. As she was wrapping up our call, she sighed and quietly said, "Thank you for letting me rant on. I feel so much better and strong enough to move ahead with my plan for Mom."

This and countless other personal experiences have, in part, been special gifts I've received by participating in the small group ministry program at my church, All Souls, in New York City. As a facilitator since the program's inception four years ago, I have consistently observed how participants blossom in the light of the group's presence, listening, and compassion.

In family encounters, friendship challenges, and professional issues, my experience with the SGM program has helped to deepen the level of communication, enhance trust, help solve problems presented to me, and has increased the peace and confidence of those with whom I interact. Seeing this in my personal life and hearing similar experiences from fellow facilitators supports my sense of the crucial role this work plays in the UU community.

Given the success of SGM within our groups, the question occurs to me: "How can we apply what we've learned in an effective way to all aspects of our own lives?" Using our new awareness to enhance our relationships *beyond* the group is the next step in the process. The ultimate goal, in my view, is to transform lives throughout the larger sphere around each individual who becomes part of the SGM program.

To be effective out there in our own worlds, we need to adapt the skills we've learned in our small groups to the outside world, which has often not had the privilege of attending a small group. How can we do that? From my experience as a Small Group facilitator and as a professional trainer of corporate managers in communication skills, I have some suggestions that have proven to be highly effective in many aspects of life, both personal and professional.

The focus is on attentive listening and compassion, two powerful commitments that tend to open up deeper communication and more profound outcomes. To me, compassion is the underpinning of true listening, and listening is the path to greater understanding, trust, and collaboration. Magic happens when people feel heard! This is a demanding commitment. My own path shows me constantly that the learning curve is infinite.

Being in touch with who you are is essential in relating to the deeper level of each person you encounter. I'm sure you've found a way to do that on an ongoing basis. Next, I suggest that you focus on being *present*, being available to the person you're listening to. I love this quote by the Vietnamese monk, Thich Nhat Hanh: "*The most precious gift we can offer others is our presence. When mindfulness embraces those we love, they will bloom like flowers.*"

There are many ways to do that and I'll leave that to your own discernment. One of the ways I do this is through meditation and grounding my feet on the earth. You may have very different ideas that would be perfect for you. A very powerful way to become more present is really simple: make an *intention* to be present in the moment. Ralph Waldo Emerson has said, "*Once you make a decision, the universe conspires to make it happen.*"

Now you're ready to use some specific listening skills that can be very helpful in your life. It doesn't matter if it's listening to a family member's upset, handling a challenge a friend is having, solving an issue with a colleague at work, or even listening to someone at coffee hour on Sunday! People want to feel *heard* and feel *known*. These suggestions will be helpful to you in those situations that require not only listening, but demonstrating to the speaker through your manner, speaking, and actions, that you care about them.

Simple Guidelines for Attentive Listening:

1. Listen with an attitude of caring, compassion, and empathy with the speaker.
2. In person, use body language and eye contact to demonstrate your attention to the speaker.
3. On the phone, use those little indicators that you're following what they're saying: "hmm, of course, yes, oh, etc."
4. Listen for the speaker's thoughts and feelings about the experience he/she is sharing.
5. Look for the *hidden meaning* behind the words he/she is expressing.
6. When the speaker is finished with sharing, put into *your own words* the thoughts and feelings you heard expressed.
7. When the speaker indicates through words or facial/body language expression that you "got" what they said, you'll know that they feel *heard* and *known*.
8. Don't:
 - a. Offer your opinions
 - b. Express your own judgments
 - c. Give advice

Life situations that call for using Attentive Listening:

1. When someone needs support in a difficult situation.
2. To resolve a conflict with your significant other or children.
3. In business, when you need to understand a complex process or project goal.

How to Use Attentive Listening in the Above Situations:

1. If appropriate, share with the person that you'd like to use skills you've learned that may help you to understand them better and to help them feel heard. If not, go straight to #2.
2. Ask them to speak about the issue that is concerning them and use the Attentive Listening skills, as listed above in the Guidelines.

These skills will build on the listening skills you've been using in your small groups. You may be uncomfortable initially, but you'll get better quite quickly with a little practice. The important aspect is your intention to be a helping presence to the person who needs your attention.

Happy Listening!

Rae Ramsey is a facilitator of Small Groups at All Souls Church, New York City. She is on the Steering Committee and is also a Lay Pastoral Associate.

So when you are listening to somebody, completely, attentively, then you are listening not only to the words, but also to the feeling of what is being conveyed, to the whole of it, not part of it.

~ Jiddu Krishnamurti

The 2014 Journal Reader Survey

In March of this year, small group ministry leaders and participants responded to questions about SGM Journal content. Their feedback provided a wealth of information for planning timely articles of broad interest to all Journal readers. Below are the questions and a selection of responses.

What do you like best about the SGM Journal?

- A single, quality source of information about small group ministry.
- The variety of contributors and topics.
- Shared experiences and new ideas to consider.
- Helpful, inspirational stories and examples shared by congregations across the nation.
- Seeing the variety of models and practices of various SGM programs.
- Finding solutions to common problems.
- Articles about managing and enhancing a SGM program.
- Information about other congregation's SGM programs and innovations.
- Network events and enhancements to the website.
- Articles from ministers and others about the benefits and successes of SGM.
- The ease of forwarding the Journal on to the facilitators and steering committee.
- Sharing some of our experiences with others involved in SGM.
- Having questions posed and answers given.
- Reading articles about the "essence" and "big picture" aspects of SGM.

What do you find most useful about the SGM Journal?

- Practical information and ideas that can be applied in my congregation.
- Topic ideas.
- Information and shared experiences from other congregations.
- Articles by people who direct SGM programs, with details of how they manage particular situations and common problems.
- Essays and articles that frame issues in a way that increases my own understanding or awareness, and gives me the language for explanations to my own congregation.

What would you like to see more about in the SGM Journal?

- Opening and closing words and meditations.
- How other congregations manage their groups.
- How to keep the enthusiasm going.
- Addressing common problems in SGM, eg., difficult situations and failure to uphold the covenant.
- Features of a healthy small group and small group ministry program.
- Rejuvenating a SGM program.

Additional suggestions are always welcome at journaleditor@smallgroupministry.net.

Healthy Small Groups

By Rev. Michelle Collins, First Unitarian Church of
Wilmington, Delaware

What does it take to have great small groups? How can we make sure that our programs thrive? I'm continually asking myself these questions for the program in my congregation, and I recently found another useful way to ask it. One of my favorite blog and podcast sites is Unseminary.com (stuff you wish they taught in seminary) and recently they featured Baptist small groups pastor Ben Reed (<http://www.unseminary.com/benreed>) to talk about how they do small group programs. And Ben talked about his program in terms of health. Both universally healthy features, but even more, what's healthy in your particular context. My favorite line was, "**Figure out in your context what health looks like, and work towards that.**"

Since then, I've been asking two questions to folks about their small groups. The first is, what makes a healthy small group? Here are some of the responses I've gotten: Regular attendance, groups have covenants, skilled or trained facilitators, clear announcement of the purpose of the group, open to new participants, time for getting to know one another, church politics avoided, respectful relationships, accountability, connected with the minister or coordinating committee, attraction rather than assignment into groups, appropriate gender balance, facilitator checking in with folks who miss meetings, communication between meetings, not required sharing, structure to the sessions, and encouragement to go deeper with reflections.

The second question is connected with the first – what makes a healthy small group program? Here are some of folks' thoughts: Regular facilitator training, linked to monthly themes, groups are not static, groups don't self-select members, don't become cliques, program is dynamic with new groups starting, service projects are happening, planned reforming of groups, times for celebration, no alcohol during group meetings, heterogeneous groups, shared or rotated facilitation of groups, bringing up new facilitators, groups stay connected with the larger congregation, and new folks in the congregation are specifically invited to join a small group.

There's a lot of variety in all of these answers! And since every congregation is different, health may look a little different. It's also amazing how much energy we spend worrying about things that are really secondary to these foundational health elements. In my queries, no one has yet mentioned how often groups meet or what their specific topic matter is. In Ben Reed's program, there is a

lot of variance in where the groups meet. But here's what Ben says about that: "At the end of the day I don't care where a group meets. I don't care if they meet at a Starbucks, on a school campus, or at home. What I care about is small group health. So if they are pursuing health, I am thrilled. I don't care how long they meet or where they meet as long as they are pursuing health."

I got to take a practical stab at applying the first of these questions, as two church members approached me recently to ask about starting up a new small group on some topics that they both are particularly interested in. I wanted to be able to give them a few foundational guidelines and let them feel empowered to be creative with the rest of the design. Here are the four elements of what I think a healthy group looks like in my context:

Covenant: The group has a covenant they have agreed upon that includes expectations for how the group functions together and some sort of expectation for attendance.

Welcoming: The group is open to new participants during our registration periods, and participants choose where to go rather than getting selected by the groups.

Growth-Oriented: The main focus of the group is personal and spiritual growth (as distinguished from support groups, educational groups, or social groups, although these things may also happen in the group, just not as the main focus).

Connection: The group is connected to the Coordinating Team and the minister, including participation in the facilitator orientation and keeping the team/minister in the loop with regard to group life and progress and any issues that may arise.

"Figure out in your context what health looks like, and work towards that." What about your program? What do healthy groups look like? What does a healthy program look like? Do you have any changes that you might need to make to work towards more health? Summer is often a time for taking a step back to see the larger picture of programs and think about what you might want to plan for the next church year; to see what has worked, what might need to be changed, and what might need to be invented anew. May your work and leadership on small groups be blessed.

THANK YOU To Our Members!

In our 10 years as a member-based organization, your support has enabled us to:

- Sponsor workshops and a consultation booth at General Assembly since 2004.
- Maintain an informative and up-to-date website.
- Train hundreds of facilitators, program coordinators, and ministers to launch and sustain small group ministry programs in congregations in the U.S. and Canada.
- Publish 6 successful books—*Small Group Ministry for Youth*, *UU Small Group Ministry*, the *Facilitator Training and Development Manual*, *Celebrating Congregations 2010*, *Spiritual Journeys: 101 Session Plans for Small Group Ministry Programs*, *Small Group Ministry With All Ages*, and *Social Justice Work Through Small Group Ministry*.
- Sponsor 7 SGM Summer Institutes.
- Publish our e-newsletter, *Covenant Group News*, and the *SGM Journal*.
- Post 600 SGM session plans.
- Initiate the Network Facebook and blog, *Small Groups, Deep Connections*.
- Expand our Online Resources and the ever-evolving *Implementing Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry*.
- Maintain the Small Group Ministry list serve on the UUA website.
- Apply for and achieve tax-exempt status as a charitable organization.
- Continue the legacy of Rev. Glenn Turner, Rev. Bob Hill, and many other clergy and lay leaders who embraced the concept of small covenanted groups in UU congregations.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our co-founders, Calvin Dame, Peter Bowden, and M'ellen Kennedy, three visionaries who saw the need for a SGM support organization and worked to establish the UU Small Group Ministry Network in June, 2004.

Thank you to all who have helped to make the UU SGM Network a success!

Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being. Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light.

~ Albert Schweitzer



UU SGM Network Publications

Covenant Group News - A free, bi-monthly e-newsletter bringing you SGM news, resources, and event announcements from congregations, districts, and regions. Current issues are posted online. Subscribe now to receive every issue via email. <http://www.smallgroupministry.net/dada/mail.cgi/list/cgnews>

Connect with SGM on Facebook - Join our more than 100 Facebook members. Share ideas and enrich the small group ministry community. <http://www.facebook.com/groups/158837360893790/>

ORDER BOOKS & MANUALS ONLINE OR BY MAIL

Pricing & ordering information: <http://www.smallgroupministry.net/forsale.html>

Online Store: <http://www.smallgroupministry.net/sgmstore>

Social Justice Work Through Small Group Ministry - Thirty-four sessions for preparation, action and reflection on topics of multiculturalism, radical hospitality, immigration, racism, marriage equality, and earth justice.

Small Group Ministry With All Ages - Implementation strategies, leader training, session development, and session plans for children through elders.

Facilitator Training and Development Manual - A guide for training and support plus a handbook on CD to customize for group leaders and facilitators.

Spiritual Journeys: 101 Session Plans for Small Group Ministry Programs - Sessions on Spiritual Journeying, Personal Beliefs and Values, Spiritual Challenges, Just for Fun, Being Human, Holidays, and Special Use subjects for life events.

Small Group Ministry for Youth - Twenty-five sessions for middle and high school youth.

SGM Resources from InterConnections

The UUA's monthly newsletter for congregational leaders

Small Groups Help Members Connect and Congregations Grow

By Don Skinner, InterConnections Editor, September 2013

<http://www.uua.org/interconnections/interconnections/290095.shtml>

Keeping Members Connected By Creating Small Groups, Jan. 2001

<http://www.uua.org/interconnections/interconnections/46286.shtml>

Small Groups Help Build a Stronger Congregation, Oct. 1999

<http://www.uua.org/interconnections/interconnections/43312.shtml>

PUBLICATIONS TEAM 2014

The UU Small Group Ministry Network is pleased to announce the formation of an eight-member Publications Team! The small group ministry leaders below will plan and produce *Covenant Group News* and the *SGM Journal*, pose questions on the SGM Network Facebook page, and post articles on the Network's blog, *Small Groups, Deep Connections*.

Alan Backler, UU Church of Bloomington, IN

Susan Coe, UU Church of Belfast, ME

Diana Dorroh, Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, LA

Marilyn Eanet, First Unitarian Church of Providence, RI

Anne Gero, UUs of the Cumberland Valley, Boiling Springs, PA

Anne Haynes, UU Church of Bloomington, IN

Jennifer Harvilak, Cedarhurst UU, Finksburg, MD

Susan Hollister, Eno River UU Fellowship, Durham, NC

We look forward to a great year of collaboration as we bring news, events, and articles from across the country.

Journal articles and topic suggestions may be sent to journaleditor@smallgroupministry.net

Become a Member of the SGM Network

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