

# What Can You Do In Six Months?: The UU Small Group Ministry Network Is Off to a Strong Start!

By Peter Freedman Bowden

Newport, RI

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Six months ago the UU Small Group Ministry Network was just a vision and a collection of links on [www.smallgroupministry.net](http://www.smallgroupministry.net) website. Today, it is a new and rapidly growing organization supporting shared ministry in our congregations! Below is a summary of our first six months.

**Three's a Charm:** After a year of talking about forming a network to support SGM, Calvin Dame and Peter Bowden found a third person who shared the vision while attending the April 2004 SGM conference in Arlington, VA – Mellen Kennedy. With a core group of three things started to happen fast.

**Launch at GA:** By June we had growing board and set of advisors. During GA we held our first board meeting, Peter and Mellen provided free consultations all week long in the exhibit hall, and our membership program was launched to help fund resource development.

**Today:** We now have a growing membership, a fabulous board, new resources online and in development, multiple regional conferences in the planning stages and one already completed at Devon, PA (see p. 6), a week long program to be offered at Ferry Beach this summer (see p. 7), and have applied to become an official independent affiliate with the UUA which will grant us the ability to sponsor GA workshops. Not bad...

## **To Our Current Members**

A special thanks to all of our members. Whether you joined because your desire for more resources or to help fund our work, together we are making a difference in our congregations. The stronger our shared ministry is, the stronger our congregations are.

## **To Potential Members**

Regardless of where you picked up this issue of the SGM Quarterly, we are glad you did! We

hope the articles and information in this journal help you lead a stronger small group ministry. We would also like to encourage you to look at the many resources on our site. There are shared resources anyone may view, links to resources on other sites, and resources for our members. These are accessible by joining our network for a small yearly fee. In time we expect these resources to be published and sold in book form. But why wait? You can learn more and join by visiting our website - [www.smallgroupministry.net](http://www.smallgroupministry.net).

## **Donations & Other Funding**

Our members are funding the production of this journal and the development of some new small group resources. However, there is more work that can be done to support our congregations. And we want to do it! In order to take on these research and resource development projects we are welcoming donations. We are now identifying a UU congregation to be our fiscal agent so that your donations may be tax deductible. As our network grows we will move towards having our own non-profit status.

Again, we thank our members for their support and welcome all additional financial contributions. For more information on making tax deductible donations, please contact Peter Bowden (401 855-0037).