

## **Religious Education and Small Group Ministry**

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Working with Small Group Ministry rapidly brought me to the concept of what I have been calling Relational Religious Education. This sets the basis of the educational ministry of Unitarian Universalism on relationships: between leaders/facilitators/teachers/mentors and participants; among participants; and between the educational ministry and the total ministry of the congregation. **It is the way to enhance the educational ministry for lifespan faith development, it** provides an intergenerational approach, and allows flexibility in religious education. It can provide structure and flexibility that is needed for youth and young adult programming.

**Resources are being written to incorporate Small Group Ministry into religious education.** Last year, I published "**Relational Religious Education: A Small Group Ministry Model.**" This is on my web site at [www.hzmre.com](http://www.hzmre.com) under Small Group Ministry. Gail Forsythe-Vail in the North Andover, MA, has been using this in their religious education program for several years.

Work is also being done related to using the

Small Group Ministry format in development of teachers in religious education programs. Small Group Ministry was the theme of the packet published by Rev. Patricia Hoerdoerfer last summer, and there is interest in using it as a model in a camp for families.

**Keep posted!**