

SGM QUARTERLY

VOL. 4 NO 4

PRE GA 2008

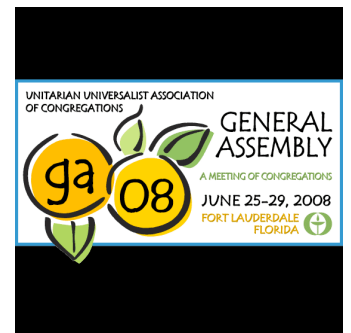
A publication of the UU Small Group Ministry Network



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY June 25-29, 2008 Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Small Groups, Deep Connections

General Assembly is the annual business meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. Congregation members and clergy from across the U.S. and Canada gather for a full schedule of workshops, plenary meetings, and entertainment. Every year since its 2004 formation, the UU Small Group Ministry Network has presented highly popular workshops and a consultation booth at GA. Following is the schedule of events for SGM opportunities at GA 2008. We'll see you there! (Check at the Booth for updates and additional information.)



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Our Mission:

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

Staff the Booth

We need you! Share your SGM experiences with other ministers, coordinators, and facilitators. How did you introduce SGM to your congregation? How do you train your facilitators; publicize your program; recruit new participants? The best information comes from SGM practitioners. Join us "behind the table" for an hour or more between workshops or plenaries. Send your volunteer times to sbhollister@juno.com by June 23, or stop by the Booth to sign up.

WORKSHOP #3058***Strategies and Solutions for Small Group Ministry Challenges***

Friday 3:15-4:30 PM Convention Center Grand Floridian F

GA Planning Committee, Small Group Ministry Network

*Presenters: Diana Dorroh, Baton Rouge, LA; Rev. Russ Savage, Bethesda, MD;**Steve Becker, Seattle, WA*

Many congregations are using Small Group Ministry to meet the needs for connection and spiritual exploration. We will provide strategies for successful programs, plus solutions to common pitfalls.

Part 1: Welcome & Introductions (Diana)

Part 2: Qualities of a Successful SGM Program (Russ)

Part 3: Working with "Extra-grace Needed Members (Diana)

Part 4: Unique Challenges to Covenant Groups & Facilitators (Steve)

Part 5: Questions & Answers (Entire Panel)

Rev. Russ Savage, Minister of Congregational Life at River Road UU Congregation, has 10 years experience in Small Group Ministry at churches of varying size.

Steve Becker, Vice-President for the UU SGM Network, has more than five years experience in all facets of SGM, including training facilitators and developing topics.

Diana Dorroh is President of the UU SGM Network. Her particular focus is using small group ministry to strengthen and grow congregations.

UU SGM NETWORK BOOTH # 432

Exhibit Hall, Ft. Lauderdale Convention Center

Your Headquarters for:

Resources on small group facilitation & program management

Opportunities to share SGM successes and challenges

Answers to all your SGM & Covenant Group questions

Booth Hours:

Wednesday Noon to 8 PM

Thursday through Saturday 10 AM to 7 PM

Sunday 10 AM to 3 PM

New This Year:

Behind the Scenes: Implementing Small Group Ministry - A compilation of articles from the SGMN Quarterly, website and Covenant Group News, plus newly developed materials (for sale)
Directory of Resources on and linked with the SGMN website
Directory of Small Group Ministry/Covenant Group Sessions
Prototype: ***Facilitator Training Manual*** - Look through the Table of Contents and Introduction; tell us what you'd like to see included.

Booth Chats:

What would you like to learn or share? Topic suggestions will be accepted before and during General Assembly. Send your requests now to office@smallgroupministry.net. Stop by the booth for the "chat" schedule.

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1:30 PM

Networking in Small Group Ministry

Presented by the Network Board of Directors, the Annual Meeting of the UU Small Group Ministry Network is an opportunity to connect with other SGM enthusiasts, help each other create vibrant SGM programs, learn more about the SGM Network, and get involved in Network activities. A preliminary agenda follows. Meeting location and final agenda will be available at the Booth.

1. Welcome/Introductions/Opening Words
2. Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting
3. President's Report: Network status and activities
4. Financial Report
5. Approval of Bylaw changes (proposed changes are included in this issue)
6. Nominating Committee Report
7. Election of Board Members
8. Future Plans: The Mountain Conference, Facilitator Training Manual, regional workshops, and more
9. Open discussion: SGM Network programs
10. Opportunities: Get involved in Network projects & activities
11. Closing Words

WHO WE ARE:

The UU Small Group Ministry Network is a membership-based organization. The purpose of the Network is to support small group ministry through developing new resources, networking and training opportunities.

Board and Staff

Diana Dorroh, President
 Steve Becker, Vice President
 Rev. Helen Zidowecki, Secretary
 Susan Hollister, Treasurer
 Anne Haynes
 Walter LeFlore
 Mary Ann Terry

Advisory Board

Rev. Bob Hill
 Rev. Glenn Turner

Quarterly Editor

Beth Tiewater
mctie@aol.com

The SGM Quarterly is published four times a year and supported by donations and memberships. Archives are available on the SGM website.

E-Quarterly

If you would you like to receive this newsletter electronically, please e-mail our editor at mctie@aol.com

From the President:

This issue marks a major transition for the UU Small Group Ministry Network. The Editorship of the Quarterly is passing from Rev. M'ellen Kennedy to Beth Tiewater.

From the entire Network, I want to express heartfelt thanks to Rev. M'ellen Kennedy, who has edited the UU Small Group Ministry Quarterly since its inception in 2004. M'ellen is also one of the three founders of the Network, along with Peter Bowden and Calvin Dame. See the notices in this Quarterly of some of M'ellen's planned events in the Fall. She also plans to write articles for the Quarterly. So, you are not losing her expertise and experience.

Our new Quarterly Editor is Beth Tiewater. She has professional experience in marketing and proposal writing and has served on the session writing team for Main Line Unitarian Church in Devon, PA. Please welcome Beth and support her and the Network by reading, distributing, and contributing to the Quarterly.

Diana Dorroh

From M'ellen:

I am grateful that I had the opportunity to serve these past four years as the first editor of the Quarterly. Our goal when we began was to provide practical, concrete, helpful and provocative information and assistance to folks like you who are working in the congregations. Our hope was to support healthy and dynamic Small Group Ministry programs through a high quality publication. With the help of so many volunteers, I think we have succeeded. Thanks to all who have contributed their enthusiasm and effort to the Quarterly and have made it happen.

Having done this work for four years, I am ready to move on from my position as editor. I continue to be involved in Small Group Ministry in the denomination, and am focusing on my work as a small group ministry consultant. Thanks to all who have supported my work with the Quarterly and the Network. I look forward to continuing to work with many of you in new ways, and in contributing to this vital ministry.

Rev. M'ellen Kennedy

Small Group Ministry Institute

August 17 – August 22, 2008

The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers, Inc.

The Highlands, North Carolina

An opportunity for teams and individuals from congregations of all sizes to learn and practice Small Group Ministry (SGM) with experienced practitioners and leaders. Sessions are designed for new and experienced program organizers, facilitators, ministers and congregational leaders. The week will include presentations, hands-on workshops, small group ministry experiences, sharing, networking, informal ‘porch chats’, worship – and time to enjoy what The Mountain has to offer!

- **Explore the powerful impact that Small Group Ministry is having in congregations.**
- **Build the skills of new facilitators and enhance skills in problem resolution.**
- **Participate in Small Group Ministry as Spiritual Practice.**
- **Explore Small Group Ministry as related to Social Justice and Faith in Action**
- **Create and select effective sessions, including the use of art, music, and movement.**
- **Learn how to lead your church’s small group ministry program**
- **Take home a vision and plan to explore, begin, enhance or expand Small Group Ministry.**

The format will include presentations, discussion and workshops, and the **opportunity to meet daily in a small group**. Come yourself—and bring a group from your congregation! Participants will receive a packet of material and resources.

Leaders: *Rev. Helen Zidowecki* (Augusta, ME); *Susan Hollister* (Devon, PA); *Diana Dorroh* (Baton Rouge, LA); *Steve Becker* (Seattle, WA); *Walter LeFlore* (Stow, MA)

Cost: The Mountain, shared occupancy, and Program Fee: \$492; after July 1, \$517
To Register, visit www.mountaincenters.org or Call (828) 526-5838

Sponsored by the **Small Group Ministry Network**, see www.smallgroupministry.net
For questions about conference content, contact Rev. Helen Zidowecki at hzmre@hzmre.com

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Other leaders may be added. Attendees will participate in the facilitation of the SGM sessions throughout the week.

Steve Becker has been involved with small group ministry since 2003 in the Seattle, Washington area, where he has offered facilitator training, served as a member of the Theme Team, and has facilitated a group for persons with special needs. His special interest is developing topics for covenant groups. He is the Vice-President for the Small Group Ministry Network Board of Directors. Steve lives in Seattle.

Diana Dorroh, Program Director, and Rev. Steve Crump have led the Baton Rouge program since its beginning in 1999. That program now has 200 participants. She participated in several workshops organized by Rev. Bob Hill, when he was District Executive of the Southwest District. Her special interest is in using small group ministry to strengthen and grow congregations. She currently serves as volunteer staff at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge. Diana is President for the Small Group Network Board.

Susan Hollister has been a Unitarian Universalist for 27 years and is a member of Main Line Unitarian Church in Devon, PA. She helped launch Small Group Ministry at MLUC and is past coordinator of the Program. She co-facilitates a group, assists the current coordinators, and serves on the session writing team. Susan promotes small group ministry as an ideal way for newcomers to meet people and make connections. Susan is the Treasurer for the Small Group Ministry Network Board.

Walter LeFlore is a third year seminary student at Andover Newton Theological School. He's focused on enhancing spiritual development and building authentic communities, using the SGM process. He has over twenty years experience using small group process as an organization consultant and as a facilitator in the SGM program at First Parish Stow/Acton, MA. Walter is on the Small Group Ministry Board.

Rev. Helen Zidowecki has been involved with Small Group Ministry for 10 years. She is a member of the Augusta congregation, where she is a facilitator and on the Topics Committee. Her special interest is Small Group Ministry in Lifespan Faith Development, and smaller congregations. She was the Program Consultant, Northeast District, until July 2007. She leads workshops and writes materials on Small Group Ministry. Helen resides in Litchfield, ME. She is Secretary for the Small Group Ministry Network.

SGM Workshops offered by M'ellen Kennedy

Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy is a UU minister and community psychologist residing in Burlington, VT. She has been working with lay-led small groups for over 20 years, and continues to present small group ministry training events across the country. For registration info contact Rev. Kennedy at mellenken@aol.com. Visit www.smallgroupministry.net for more information.

Small Group Ministry Facilitator Training

This all day advanced workshop will be offered at three locations.

Friday, Sept. 5, 6:30 –8:30 PM (for those new to SGM)
Saturday, Sept. 6, 9-4:30 PM
Hosted by the First Parish in Cambridge, MA

Friday, Oct. 3, 6:30 –8:30 PM (for those new to SGM)
Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008, 9-4:30
Hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Portsmouth South Church, Portsmouth, NH

Saturday, October 25, 2008
Hosted by the First Church in Barre, VT

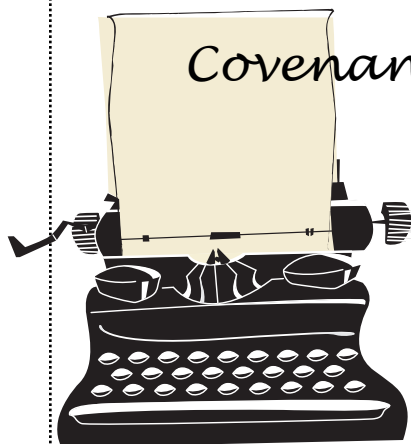
Building and Sustaining a Strong SGM Ministry Program

This all day workshop will be offered this Fall:

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008
Hosted by All Souls Church
Greenfield, MA

Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008
Hosted by the Unitarian Society of New Haven, CT

Saturday, September 27, 2008
Hosted by the First UU Society of Albany, NY



Covenant Corner

**The place to
share your
thoughts,
ideas and
experiences.**

**We're looking for
contributions to our Covenant
Corner for the
Fall issue and beyond!**

Please send submissions
to mctie@aol.com

From the New Editor, Beth Tiewater:

I am thrilled to be working with this incredible group of volunteers as we serve you, the members of the SGM Network. As a newer member of Main Line Unitarian Church in Devon, PA, being in a small group has helped me to feel a part of our large congregation. I serve on the session writing team for our small group ministry program, which has enriched my understanding of the role of SGM in our church community.

My professional background includes almost 10 years of editing and marketing. In recent years, I've been a stay-at-home mom to my nine-year-old son. I also care for my husband, a dog, and two cats!

SPOTLIGHT ON.....

Find out what's happening in groups across the country.

Congregation/District: Main Line Unitarian Church, Devon, PA/Joseph Priestley District

Members: 10

Male/Female Split: 3/7

Year Group was Formed: 2006

Program Name: Small Group Ministry

Snacks Served: Yes

Leadership: Co-facilitators

Meeting place/Schedule: Facilitators home/1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month

Session Plan Source: Session writing team lead by the family minister

Service Projects 2008: Helped with a fundraiser at the church, planted two container gardens at the church front entry, lit the chalice for Sunday services in April, will tend a portion of the church grounds during the summer months.

Favorite Sessions: "Personal Risk Taking" and "This I Believe" which was developed by a group member.

*To spotlight your group, e-mail
our editor at mctie@aol.com*

It's true, membership has it's privileges!

As a member of the SGM Network you:

- Get the current issue of the newsletter *before* it's on the website,
- Provide financial support for the SGM movement,
- Receive registration discounts for SGM Network-sponsored events,
- Have a voice and a vote at our annual meeting at GA.

Name	
Address	
Congregation	
District	Program Coordinator
Phone	E-mail
Individual Membership (\$40 year)	
Congregation Membership (\$100 year)	
Additional Donation	
Total Enclosed: \$	

We rely on donations from members and supporters like you! Your continued financial support allows us to better serve our members. Please consider making a gift to our network.

Send completed form and check made out to **UU SGM Network** to 3313 Goshen Road Newtown Square, PA 19073. Or join online at www.smallgroupministry.net

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