

# SGM QUARTERLY

VOL 6 NO 4

SUMMER 2010

A publication of the UU Small Group Ministry Network

ISSN 1945-2683

## News from the Network



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#### **Our Mission:**

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

### **The Network Has A New Logo!**

The distinctive new logo gracing our cover was designed by graphic artist Erin Thompson of Washington, DC. Read about the logo's symbolism in this issue.

### **Available This Month - Two New Publications from the Network!**

*Small Group Ministry 2010: Celebrating Congregations* by Rev. Helen Zidowecki and *Spiritual Journeys: 101 Session Plans for Small Group Ministry* by Steve Becker will debut at General Assembly. Purchase at the Network booth or by mail order. Details inside.

### **Time to Renew?**

Don't miss out on the *SGM Quarterly* and publication discounts. Download a renewal form from our website or renew online. To check your membership status, write [membership@smallgroupministry.net](mailto:membership@smallgroupministry.net).

### **Changes in Program Leadership?**

Be sure to let the Network know when a new coordinator or team assumes leadership of your covenant group program. Tell us at [membership@smallgroupministry.net](mailto:membership@smallgroupministry.net)

### **General Assembly 2010, June 23-27, Minneapolis, MN**

Small Group Ministry events at GA include the Network's annual consultation booth, our workshop presentation, and, **new this year**, a Discussion Group. See GA details in this issue.

### **The SGM Summer Institute, August 31-September 3, 2010 Camp de Benneville Pines, Angelus Oaks, California**

An opportunity to exchange ideas and resources, learn from experienced faculty, and take home a vision and plan for your congregation's covenant group ministry. See flyer and registration information in this issue.

Also available at [www.smallgroupministry.net/events.html](http://www.smallgroupministry.net/events.html).

From our members.....

## How to Host a Successful SGM Training Session

*By the Small Group Ministry Steering Committee of  
Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville, TN*

Last summer Larkie Gildersleeve and Judy Ann Langston, members of the Small Group Ministry Steering Committee at Tennessee Valley UU Church in Knoxville, TN, set their GPS and headed to the SGM Institute at The Mountain, the UU retreat center in Highlands, NC. The setting was lovely and the faculty, made up of UU Small Group Ministry Network board members Rev. Helen Zidowecki, Diana Dorroh, and Susan Hollister, were gifted, generous, and inspiring. We left with our batteries charged and planned to attend with a larger group the following year.

We were crestfallen to discover the 2010 Institute would be in California, but then learned that Susan Hollister was willing to come to Knoxville for a weekend of training. Our minister, Rev. Chris Buice, was enthusiastic about the opportunity and suggested we open it up to other churches and host it as a regional event. With two months to prepare, we publicized the workshop on the East Tennessee Cluster listserv and in our church newsletter and announced it in church services. Chris gave a sermon boost of the event. We reached out to the region by identifying and calling contact people at the cluster churches to tell them about the training. Finally, we created a flyer to send electronically to our contacts for distribution within their congregations. We asked that those planning to attend register with us by phone or e-mail, and we asked for a registration fee of \$5 to help with food and drink costs.

A total of 24 individuals attended, including new and experienced facilitators, program coordinators, a minister, ministerial intern, and a pastoral care associate. They came with varying objectives based on the status of Small Group Ministry in their congregations. Since we had talked with each congregation beforehand, we were able to plan for how best to address the differing needs. We included some SGM basics—what small group ministry is and what it can do for a congregation. Susan sent electronically a wealth of materials ahead of her arrival in time for us to assemble into packets.

Our day began at 8:30AM with an overview of SGM, then we broke into groups of six for a Small Group Ministry experience. The afternoon session was devoted to the role of the facilitator, group dynamics, and the covenant. We put on an SGM meeting role play session with a facilitator demonstrating some of the strategies for dealing with difficult behaviors. This particular activity provided an entertaining, often hilarious, interval.

The following morning, after the 11AM service, we provided an information session for people who had been unable to attend an orientation or the facilitator training, but who had an interest in learning about TVUUC's small groups. Susan gave an overview of SGM and answered questions for the attendees, three of whom are now going to join a small group.

We feel quite satisfied with how the event went as well as with the results. Our trainer provided not just content, but also guidance with the planning process. The Westside UU sanctuary was ideal for the training. It was great to meet and interact with the attendees from other churches in the area, some of whom we'll likely work with on projects in the future. Now that we have additional trained facilitators, we have formed three new groups, and expect to further populate those groups and form new ones this summer.

### Who We Are:

The UU Small Group Ministry Network 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 and related shared ministry models in UU congregations through developing new resources, networking, and training opportunities.

### Board and Staff

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Rev. Helen Zidowecki, Vice President  
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Erik Zidowecki

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

# CONNECTIONS..... CONNECTIONS..... CONNECTIONS.....

with Steve Becker, President, Small Group Ministry Network

## GONE FISHIN'

Summer means a time to go fishin'-ah yes, lazy Sunday mornings lying around the pond, watching those little fry splash in the heat looking for a cool spot. My bait is ready; a variety of juicy lures burst forth from my tackle box. Patience, my friend, is a definite virtue on these hot mornings when the run is light and the fish only stay focused for a few minutes before heading out of the service. *These* fish paddle into our congregation on those warm summer days seeking liberal thought and maybe a new home. The tempting taste of getting to know more people, making new friends, and growing personally entice them to nibble at the lure of intimacy, the bait of ultimacy.... Closer they come, inspired by the promise of spiritual enlightenment ...and they are hooked! (or maybe it's just the snacks?)

May all your fishing expeditions this summer be successful!

*Steve Becker*

## The UU Small Group Ministry Network Logo

This issue of the SGM Network marks the unveiling of our new logo. Early this spring the Network commissioned graphic artist Erin Malick Thompson to design a logo to symbolize the essence of Small Group Ministry. She created a sequence of talk bubbles forming a circle, suggesting the aspect of covenant groups in which each person speaks one at a time while the others listen.



The proportions of the overlapping bubbles create a "figure-ground" effect in which the center space between them sometimes recedes and sometimes comes to the foreground, making the viewer aware of the secure space created by members of the group. We're delighted to share our new logo with our readers!

# Facilitator's Toolbox

## Role Play As a Training Tool

*By Susan Hollister, UU Small Group Ministry Network Board Member*

An important part of facilitator training is preparation to manage the inevitable covenant breaches that arise during group sessions. Despite the group covenant, any one of us can occasionally be the “problem child” in our group. Maybe we had a stressful day and we don’t feel like talking. Maybe we’re so distressed or excited about a life event that we go on and on about it. Or maybe we’re so focused on what a group member is sharing that we blurt out, “And then what happened?”

Anticipating and knowing how to manage disruptions is key to facilitator confidence, preserving the safe environment of the covenant group, and keeping the session running smoothly.

At a recent facilitator training workshop for the East Tennessee Cluster of congregations, we decided to present challenging scenarios in the form of a role play. We brainstormed about problems and chose five common ones: lateness, intellectualizing, advice-giving, passivity, and going off-topic. Then we chose actors to play the parts and gave them funny names: Tara Tardy, Alan Analyzer, Anna Advisor, Frank Fine, and Rhonda Rambler.

The role play was to last about fifteen minutes. We positioned a semi-circle of chairs where everyone could see and hear. The group used a real session plan with an abbreviated check-in: *Tell us in one word how you feel about being here tonight.* There was no rehearsal; the actors ad-libbed their parts. The group leader, Flora Facilitator, was responsible for reacting on the spot and managing the behaviors. As the group started Check-in, “Tara” burst in, waving at everyone. “Flora” briefly welcomed her, told her the group was in the middle of check-in, and that her turn would come later. “Anna” had a solution for everyone, “Rhonda” wandered off on a tangent, “Alan” referred to a book he had read, and “Frank” had nothing to say. At the appropriate times “Flora” reminded the group of their covenant to not give advice, to use “I” statements, to arrive on time, to stay on-topic, and to participate fully. She encouraged “Frank” to contribute by gently asking him to comment on a question.

The audience caught on immediately and there was a great deal of laughter in the room. At the end of the performance, the actors stood to bow, holding up a card bearing their actor name. Not surprisingly, they got a big round of applause. The energy in the room continued as we segued into an open discussion of “what ifs” and how to manage situations. We learned a lot from each other that day, first as we spoofed common behaviors, and then as we shared possible solutions.

A role play of this kind could be used in a training session for new facilitators, as a skill builder at a Facilitators Meeting, or in an enrichment workshop for experienced facilitators. The fun part comes with creating silly names and exaggerating the problem behaviors. The learning part comes with observing the management techniques and adding them to your Facilitators toolbox.

## MINISTER'S PAGE

### **Ministry Through Listening**

*By Rev. Dr. Justin Osterman, Main Line Unitarian Church, Devon, Pennsylvania*

I still keep the voicemail message on my office phone, though it is more than a year old. A lay-leader of our Pastoral Associates had called to tell me that, over dinner, another congregant had described her meeting with me and how “incredibly listened to” she felt afterwards. The unsolicited report touched me, but also reminded me that powerful ministry often occurs in the absence of words.

One of the simplest forms of ministry is attentive listening.

Our society places great value on verbal ability. We love great communicators and articulate leaders, but we place much less value on being good and effective listeners.

There is a difference between “hearing” and “listening.” An old cliché features one partner in a couple proclaiming with exasperation, “You haven’t heard a word that I said!” We can hear what others say without listening to them and we can listen to another person without understanding them.

Really listening to another person – opening not just our ears, but our hearts and minds to their story – is one of the greatest gifts that we can offer. Listening closely to another person, especially when they are sharing tender truths about their life, is an act of loving kindness. When we listen in love, fully attentive to another person, we are performing a powerful act of ministry.

Attentive listening requires focus and effort. We must focus on the speaker and not on what we would like to say in response. The minute we start thinking about our comments to their story, we have stopped listening closely. Similarly, attentive listening requires us to be silent. It is hard to hear what someone else is saying, and impossible to listen to them, while we are speaking. The “no cross talk” and “no discussion until after the circle” rules that many Small Group Ministry programs adopt are meant to hold the sacred silence and allow the ministry of listening to work its power.

Through giving by “listening” and receiving by “feeling listened to,” Small Group Ministry participants create an intimate experience of truly mutual ministry. In these covenanted circles of support, we minister to one another through our presence. We attend to each other by listening in silence, signaling our care with our eyes, our posture, and the gentle nod of a head. No words are needed, just open ears and hearts. That is a ministry that anyone can provide, and one that all of us need.

*Justin is Senior Minister at MLUC in Devon, PA*

## Program Notes

### **Small Group Ministry and Assessment: Supportive Partners**

*Alan Backler, Chair, Chalice Circles Executive Committee, UU Church of Bloomington, IN*

Chalice Circles, the small group ministry program at the UU Church of Bloomington, Indiana, has operated for four years. During that time we have worked hard to support and improve the program. A critical component of this “maintenance” effort has been on-going assessments—both formal and informal. The purpose of these assessments is to generate valuable information that can be used to improve the program.

Most of the informal feedback we receive comes from Chalice Circle facilitators, who meet in two groups with our ministers, on a monthly basis. At a recent facilitator meeting, a first-year facilitator was having a problem that was considered by the group. This led to the question of how to better support first-time facilitators as they grow in their roles. Should we provide more training at the beginning of the year? Should we provide more training during the year? Should we pair our first-time facilitators with veteran mentors? These and other related questions will be considered before the next facilitator training begins in the fall.

In the first year of Chalice Circles we began using “exit interviews.” These were used to get formal feedback from individuals who decided to drop out of Chalice Circles during the year. Our goal was to find out, in a systematic way, why people decided to leave their groups and to use that information to improve the program. A member of the Chalice Circle Executive Committee would interview these individuals by phone or in person. We found that most were dropping out because they were looking for a different kind of fellowship in the church; they were not looking for deep listening, the core of our small group ministry. This finding led to a much more focused description of what Chalice Circles were about in the letter to congregants about the program, in the message given by the minister on Kick-Off Sunday, and in the covenants that each group developed at the beginning of the year. In our fourth year, almost no one dropped out. We attribute this, in part, to our response to feedback from drop-outs and to the formal evaluations which will be discussed next.

At the end of each year, we ask each Chalice Circle participant to complete a written evaluation of the program. The resulting data is then compiled and reviewed by the Executive Committee, again with the goal of improving the program. As mentioned above, the evaluation results have been used to better develop our message of deep listening. Another general theme that came out of these end-of-year evaluations has to do with session plans—people who had participated in Chalice Circles for more than one year wanted to see some new session plans. This concern has led to a concerted effort to continually identify new session plans for Chalice Circles to use.

Small group ministry is a critical component of healthy congregations. Systematic assessment is needed to keep the program growing and vital. I invite others to share how they use assessment to improve their small group ministry programs.

***Small Groups, Deep Connections.***

## Spotlight On:

### **The Role of Group Members in Small Group Ministry**

*By Beth Tiewater, Editor of the SGM Quarterly Journal*

Small group dynamics are influenced by many factors. The facilitator, the topic, and a comfortable meeting place all contribute to the experience. But far and away the most important factor is the members. For some participants, the covenant group session is a social occasion. They come for the pre- and post-meeting chatter and check-in. Others see the gathering as a rigid spiritual session, the UU equivalent of a bible study. For these members, an engaging topic is paramount. Commitment levels vary greatly among members in all groups. Attendance is a serious commitment for some. Others may forget a meeting, schedule another activity for the same time slot, or decide not to attend at the last minute simply because they're tired.

It seems that certain people are naturally "good" group members. They arrive in a positive frame of mind. They speak and listen well and contribute responsibly to the discussion. I am not one of those people. Often when I get to our meetings, I'm worrying about my son's homework and hoping my husband gets him to bed on time. In discussions I am opinionated, I have been known to interrupt people, and I make too many jokes. However, I am aware of my shortcomings and I do make an effort to keep them in check. Others in my group make adjustments, too. And that's what's important. It's almost impossible to get that perfect mix of people, so coming to the meetings with an awareness of who we are and an openness toward others goes a long way in creating a healthy group atmosphere.

#### ***A few things to remember:***

The facilitator is not responsible for your group's success  
You are not going to love every topic/session  
You are not going to love every group member

#### ***Also remember:***

We are often enriched and enlightened by the most unlikely people  
It sometimes takes months of deep listening to really "hear" someone  
Almost all of us are annoying at one time or another

So, next time you're heading to your small group meeting, remember that your role as a group member is important and you have everything to do with the success of the meeting.

*In addition to being printed exclusively on white paper, which makes it easier to copy and is a cost-savings for the Network, the newsletter is now printed on eco-friendly, recycled paper.*

## Small Group Ministry at General Assembly

June 23-27, 2009 Minneapolis, Minnesota

### WORKSHOP # 2010 – *Enhancing, Revitalizing, Restarting Your Small Group Ministry*

Thursday 4:30 – 5:45 PM Minneapolis Convention Center – 101 H

Sponsored by the GA Planning Committee

Presenting strategies used by congregations to sustain and enhance vibrant ministries, and to rejuvenate and restart programs that have decreased in vitality. Starting with the rationale for restructuring a covenant group program, the workshop features two congregations that underwent extensive rejuvenation and re-launch of their small group ministries within the last two years, doubling participation as a result.

#### Presenters:

*Rev. Helen Zidowecki, Moderator*, member of the Northern New England District Small Group Ministry Committee and Vice-President of the UU Small Group Ministry Network

*Rev. Peg Morgan*, Minister of the Westside Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Seattle, WA

*Steve Becker*, Small Group Ministry Program Coordinator at Westside UU Congregation and President of the UU Small Group Ministry Network

*Rev. Peter Friedrichs*, Lead Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County in Media, Pennsylvania

*Joyce McKee*, Small Group Ministry Program Co-coordinator at UU Church of Delaware County

### SMALL GROUP MINISTRY DISCUSSION GROUP # 007

Saturday, June 26, 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Hilton Minneapolis Hotel, Marquette I.

All are welcome to participate in further discussion after our Thursday workshop. Panelists from the presentation will be on hand to answer questions and exchange views about issues relating to Small Group Ministry programs. **Join us!**

**BOOTH # 733:** The UU Small Group Ministry Network  
Exhibit Hall, Minneapolis Convention Center (MCC)  
Wednesday: 12:30 to 7:00 PM; Thursday through Saturday: 11:30 PM to 7:00 PM  
Sunday: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

#### Your headquarters for:

- ★ Resources on facilitation and program management
- ★ Opportunities to share SGM challenges and successes
- ★ Answers to all your SGM & Covenant Group questions

### ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, June 25, 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM, in the dining area near Booth # 733.

Bring a lunch and join the Network Board of Directors for an opportunity to connect with other Covenant Group Ministry enthusiasts, learn more about the SGM Network, and get involved in Network activities.

Meeting location and final agenda will be available at the Booth.

#### Proposed Agenda

1. Welcome, Introductions, Opening Words
2. Minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting
3. President's Report: SGM Network status and activities
4. Financial Report
5. Bylaw Revision (revision posted on [www.smallgroupministry.net](http://www.smallgroupministry.net))
6. Election of Board Members & Officers
7. Open Discussion: SGM Network programs & projects
8. Closing Words

## UU SGM Network Publications

Order forms available from <http://www.smallgroupministry.net>

### **NEW! *Spiritual Journeys: 101 Session Plans for Small Group Ministry Programs***

This exciting new book offers a wide range of original, ready-to-use sessions covering Spiritual Journeying, Personal Beliefs and Values, Spiritual Challenges, Holidays, Just for Fun, Being Human, and Special Use subjects for events that affect our lives. Themes are drawn from art, literature, UU liturgy and hymnals, current events, and religious scriptures. Available at General Assembly and for mail order in June 2010.

*Network Members: \$20 plus \$5 shipping Non-members: \$30 plus \$5 shipping*

### **NEW! *Small Group Ministry 2010: Celebrating Congregations***

The 2010 compilation celebrates the work of over 100 congregations that have contributed to the UU Small Group Ministry movement since 2004. There are profiles of contributing congregations, including when and how their program started, how many groups and participants they have, and their unique challenges and success stories. Available at General Assembly and for mail order in June 2010. Advance orders welcome.

*Network Members: \$15 plus \$5 shipping Non-members: \$25 plus \$5 shipping*

### ***Implementing Small Group Ministry: For Starting, Restarting and Enhancing a Program.* October 2009**

How do congregations decide on group duration and meeting frequency? Does it take a team to manage a program? Drawing on current information from congregations, the SGM Institutes, and Covenant Group News, this evolving document presents a series of considerations for Small Group Ministry program development, ongoing administration, groups, facilitators, session plans, and visibility, with a new section on uses of small group ministry in multiple settings. Mix and match features to build a SGM program that meets your ministry objectives.

*Network Members: \$6 plus \$5 shipping Non-members: \$10 plus \$5 shipping*

### ***Ten Years of Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry* June 2009**

In celebration of the Network's fifth anniversary, this collection traces the Small Group Ministry movement through classic articles from 1998 to the present. The book focuses on the introduction of the small group ministry concept, the rise of enthusiasm, the facilitator's role, the nature of groups, and the element of service. A special history section features the visionaries who made UU Small Group Ministry a reality.

*Network Members : \$15 plus \$5 shipping Non-members: \$25 plus \$5 shipping*

### ***Facilitator Training and Development Manual* December 2008**

Facilitator training and ongoing support are the keys to a successful small group ministry program. This training manual guides you through the process from recruitment and initial training through Facilitators Meetings and coaching. Part One is a plan for developing and implementing an in-house training program. Part Two, the *Facilitator's Guide*, is an interactive training module on CD to customize for your program, use in your training sessions and distribute to all group leaders.

*Network Members: \$15 plus \$5 shipping Non-members: \$25 plus \$5 shipping*

### ***Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry* June 2008**

A collection of 50+ articles from 5 years of the *SGM Quarterly Journal*, *Covenant Group News*, and website publications. Articles are arranged by topic, from basic elements of SGM, through the minister's role in shared ministry, sustaining your program, and applying SGM principles in all aspects of congregational life.

*Network Members: \$15 plus \$5 shipping Non-members: \$25 plus \$5 shipping*

### ***Small Group Ministry for Youth***

This dynamic format for middle and high school youth includes a session and discussion for facilitators and session plans for the Five Steps to Building Community and the Six Components of a Balanced Youth Program. Twenty-five session plans in all!

*Network Members: \$15 plus \$5 shipping Non-members: \$25 plus \$5 shipping*

## Events and Resources

### Thank You, Booth Staffers!

We salute the generous volunteers from the following congregations who will help staff the UU SGM Network booth at General Assembly in Minneapolis: First Parish in Cohasset, MA; Community Church in Augusta, ME; Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY; Eno River in Durham, NC; Second Congregational in Concord, NH, Delaware County in Media, PA; First Church of San Diego, CA; UU Church West in Brookfield, WI; Tennessee Valley in Knoxville, TN; First Unitarian in Minneapolis, MN; and Westside in Seattle, WA. Come join us! Write to [office@smallgroupministry.net](mailto:office@smallgroupministry.net) or come by Booth #733 to sign up.

### UU Cluster of Central North Carolina - Small Group Ministry Facilitator Training

Saturday, August 28, 2010, 9 AM - 4 PM at The Community Church of Chapel Hill, UU, Chapel Hill, NC. Jointly sponsored by Community Church and The UU Small Group Ministry Network. Presenter: Susan Hollister, SGM Network Board member. Designed for new and experienced facilitators and program coordinators, as well as ministers and congregation leaders starting a covenant group program. For more information and a registration form, contact Liz Bryan, Registrar, at 410-348-5221 or [liz\\_bryan@hotmail.com](mailto:liz_bryan@hotmail.com). Registrants outside the cluster are welcome as space allows.

### Question Box Topics

Are there articles you'd like to see in the *SGM Quarterly*? We welcome your suggestions for future topics. Submit requests to [quarterlyeditor@smallgroupministry.net](mailto:quarterlyeditor@smallgroupministry.net).

### Co-Sponsor a Workshop – The Network Can Help!

Connect with other congregations in your cluster or district to share program tips and host a joint facilitator training or enrichment workshop. A list of member congregations is posted on the Network's website under *Who We Are: Our Members*. For assistance with organizing and presenting, write us at [office@smallgroupministry.net](mailto:office@smallgroupministry.net)

### Small Group Ministry Discussion Group – Join the UUA List Serve

Covenant\_Group\_Ministry, the UUA list serve, provides an opportunity to share questions, comments, and experiences with others engaged in small group and covenant group ministry. Subscribe to the mailing list on the Network's website.

*Covenant Group News*, a free e-newsletter sent monthly to 1300+ subscribers, features articles by and for ministers, facilitators, group members, and coordinators. Read back issues and subscribe on our website.

### SGM NETWORK ONLINE [www.smallgroupministry.net](http://www.smallgroupministry.net)

The source for session plans, resources, news of events and workshops, membership renewal forms, and back issues of *Covenant Group News* and the *SGM Quarterly Journal*. The Spring 2010 *SGM Quarterly* journal is now posted on the site.

### Share Your Experience - Join a Network Committee!

Much of our work takes place in committees – Membership, Publications, Outreach, Education/Conferences, Financial, and Grants. The time commitment is minimal, yet the work is vital to furthering the Network's mission. Share your enthusiasm and skills. Communicate your interest to [office@smallgroupministry.net](mailto:office@smallgroupministry.net).

### Small Group Ministry Retreat

Saturday, August 7, 2010 10 AM to 4 PM

#### Washington Unitarian Universalist Church, Washington, Vermont

Small Group Ministry program leaders and facilitators are invited to a day of reflection on facilitation as spiritual practice; an opportunity to share successes and challenges with others involved in SGM for a year or more. Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy is the facilitator.

For a registration form contact Rev. Kennedy at [mellenken@aol.com](mailto:mellenken@aol.com) or 802-453-5469.

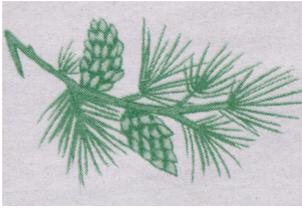
### Small Group Ministry Facilitator Training

Saturday, October 2, 2010 All Day

Hosted by the North Parish of North Andover, MA

Facilitated by Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy

For a registration form and more information, please contact Rev. Kennedy at [mellenken@aol.com](mailto:mellenken@aol.com) or 802-453-5469.



# Small Group Ministry Institute 2010

Tuesday, August 31 (1pm) – Friday, September 3 (11:30am), 2010  
Camp deBenneville Pines  
4150 Jenks Lake Road W., Angelus Oaks, California 92305

- ❑ Explore the powerful impact of Small Group Ministry/Covenant Groups in congregations.
- ❑ Build the skills of new facilitators and enhance skills in problem resolution.
- ❑ Create and select effective sessions, including the use of art, music, and movement.
- ❑ Learn how to lead your church's Small Group Ministry/Covenant Group program
- ❑ Develop Small Group Ministry for all ages (including children and youth).
- ❑ Take home a vision and plan for Small Group Ministry/Covenant Groups in your own setting

Come yourself—and *bring a group from your congregation, including youth and young adults!* Bringing a team from a congregation allows for fuller participation in all the conference has to offer as well as opportunity to develop a team approach when you return home.

Individuals and teams from *congregations of all sizes* – very small to large -- learn about and practice Small Group Ministry. Sessions are designed for *new and experienced program organizers, facilitators, ministers, religious educators, and congregational leaders*. The week includes presentations, hands-on workshops, daily small group ministry/covenant group sessions, sharing, networking, informal chats, worship. *As a group, we will expand our understanding by sharing from our experiences and wisdom.*

AND there will be some time each day to enjoy what the area has to offer—including a swimming pool and recreational features! Visit <http://www.uucamp.org/>

The Institute will incorporate the varied ways that Small Group Ministry/Covenant Groups enhance our congregations and Unitarian Universalism. There will be general information and in depth workshops around special focuses (Examples: facilitation or coordination, Small Group Ministry for all ages, Small Group Ministry in congregations of various sizes). We will be including emerging resources and Small Group Ministry developments. Each participant will receive a resource notebook.

**Cost:** Lodging and Program Fee: \$350, with \$25 discount for registration before July 1, and \$25 discount for UU Small Group Ministry Network members (from a Member Congregation, and individual members)  
To Register, visit [www.smallgroupministry.net](http://www.smallgroupministry.net) and click on Conference Registration.  
For more information and questions, or for suggestions,  
contact Helen Zidowecki at [office@smallgroupministry.net](mailto:office@smallgroupministry.net) or 207-582-5308

More information about the program will be sent when registration is received. See the Network Website at [www.smallgroupministry.net](http://www.smallgroupministry.net) for information on this and previous Institutes.

Sponsored by the **UU Small Group Ministry Network** and the Pacific Southwest District, UUA

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

As a member of the SGM Network you:

Get the current issue of the *Quarterly* before it's on the website, provide financial support for the SGM movement, receive discounts on publications and Network-sponsored events, and have a voice and a vote at our annual meeting at GA.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Congregation

\_\_\_\_\_  
District

\_\_\_\_\_  
Program Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
I would like to receive the newsletter electronically;      YES    NO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Congregational Membership (\$100 year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Individual Membership (\$40 year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Tax-deductible 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 tax-  
deductible gift to the  
Network.*

Send completed form and check made out to **UU SGM Network** to 4303 Swarthmore Road, Durham, NC 27707.

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