

Facilitators Behavioral Covenant

for Small Group Ministry at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden, CT

Preparation & Closure

- We agree to participate in the facilitators training led by the core team.
- We agree to read the materials that we receive from this training.
- We agree to participate with our group members in the end-of-year potluck/reflection.

Commitment to participate

- We agree to participate in the facilitators' meetings held approximately every six weeks.
- We agree to negotiate with our co-facilitator if we must be away from our small group.

Respect for one another's time

- We agree to arrive at our small group meetings and the facilitators' meetings on time.
- We agree to start our small group meetings at the announced starting time.
- We agree to conclude our small group meetings by the announced ending time.

Mutual Support

- We agree to be supportive of our co-facilitators, especially when group conflicts arise.
- We agree to support one another as facilitators overall.
- We agree that if we are upset by a situation in our groups, we will share it in the facilitators' meeting or before then, with a member of the coordinating team.

General Respect

- We agree to encourage participation in a way that everyone will be heard.
- We agree to model for our groups active listening.
- We agree to honor within our groups and with one another one person speaking at a time.
- We agree to call anyone in our groups who doesn't show up without letting us know beforehand.
- We agree to encourage our group members to speak from their own experiences rather than from what they've read or theorize.
- We agree to discourage advice giving in our groups.

Challenging Situations

- We agree that our groups are not therapy groups and that we will refrain from addressing anyone's psychological issues.
- We agree to share with the minister a situation calling for pastoral care and/or intervention.

Service to others

- We will ensure that our group will undertake one service venture that serves the congregation and one service venture that serves the larger community.

Ah yes, we also agreed to begin Small Group Ministry earlier in the fall, with SGM Sunday in mid-September and the first sessions in early October. All facilitators are returning, and we're now recruiting additional ones, counting on the need for at least three groups come the autumn—maybe four!

-Taken from the Small Group Ministry Network Journal, Spring 2015