

The Impact of Small Group Ministry on Ministers

From Anne Gero, SGM Journal Editorial Team

In his article, *The Role of the Minister in Small Group Ministry* (page 9), Alan Backler presents a comprehensive and compelling overview of the importance of the minister's involvement in the congregation's SGM/Covenant Group program. Small Group Ministry often serves to support the minister's needs in a different way. As an example, I include the response from my minister, Rev. Aija Simpson, in Boiling Springs, PA.

Small Group Ministry Helped Me Choose

Reverend Aija Simpson, Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley

A little over three years ago I was in the throes of the ministerial search process. For those of you who have never experienced a search (either on the ministerial or congregational end) this is the process by which we try to discern which ministers are the best fit for which congregations. Search is many things: exciting, exhausting, comprehensive, and time-consuming to name just a few. When you are reviewing ten to fifteen 100 page packets of information, the congregations can start to blend together. You have to prioritize key areas to focus on.

Small Group Ministry was one of those areas for me, which is why I was delighted when I discovered that the Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley had over half of its membership enrolled in Small Groups. This told me that this was a community that had deep connections to each other and took their spiritual development seriously. Ultimately I found many things to love about UUCV, the congregation I now serve. And I was right, one of its greatest strengths was, and continues to be, its Small Group Ministry Program.

An Invitation to Ministers: The SGM Journal Team invites ministers to share a short statement that reflects your own experience with Small Group Ministry. Send to journal@smallgroupministry.net We look forward to hearing from you.

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