

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
Group Session Plan
As A Minister Leaves
Unitarian Universalist Community Church, Augusta, ME, 2009

Opening Words

Ministry is all that we do—together.

Ministry is that quality of being in community that affirms human dignity — beckons forth hidden possibilities invites us into deeper, more constant, reverent relationships, and carries forward our heritage of hope and liberation.

Ministry is what we do together as we celebrate triumphs of our human spirit, the miracles of birth and life, the wonders of devotion and sacrifice.

Ministry is what we do together — in grief, in misery and pain, enabling us in the presence of death to say yes to life.

Gordon McKeeman

Check-in/Sharing

Topic/Activity

Ministers are spiritual leaders of congregations, partners with the congregations as they live out the Unitarian Universalist heritage and faith within a larger community. The time that a minister is with a congregation may be short or long, but that time together is unique. When the time comes for a change – and it always will come – there is much to celebrate, and there is also the sadness of saying goodbye and the uncertainty of change.

1. How do you feel with such a significant change in the life of the congregation occurring?
2. What will you miss as this ministry comes to a close?
3. What should we celebrate from the years with this minister and this congregation?
4. What do you find exciting as you imagine the years ahead?

Likes and Wishes How was the session for you? What are you taking from this session?

Closing Words

Ministry is all that we do—together.

We who minister speak and live the best we know with full knowledge that it is never quite enough. And yet reassured by loss-not found, by fragments reunited, by wounds healed and by joy shared.

Ministry is all that we do—together!

Gordon McKeeman