

Comings and Goings. Dispersing

Unitarian Universalist Community Church, Augusta, ME, Rev. Helen Zidowecki, Oct. 2017

Opening Words: Coming Together

We ventured into Small Group Ministry

To find companionship, relationship,

To feel the intimacy of a small group within the larger whole,

To engage in a spiritual journey with some we “know” and some who are strangers, some are similar to us and some who differ.

We have

Considered topics of life, both great and small, on more than a casual level.

Shared of ourselves and felt accepted.

Realized and acknowledged that we have something to offer as part of the fabric of the group.

And now we approach the ending of our Small Group Ministry as we know it.

Times change, our situations change, we change.

Sometimes the changes hold us together, sometimes they cause us to disperse.

And as we encounter this change, may we honor our time together.

Check-in/Sharing: How is it with you today? What would you like from the group today?

Topic:

Reflection on quotes about things ending. Suggestion: Have members of the group share the reading of these quotes.

There is no real ending. It’s just the place where you stop the story.

-Frank Herbert

To live in this world you must be able to do three things:

To love what is mortal, to hold it against your bones knowing your own life depends on it;

And when the time comes to let it go, to let it go.

-Mary Oliver

No distance of place or lapse of time can lessen the friendship of those who are thoroughly persuaded of each other’s worth.

-Robert Southey

They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel.

-Carl W. Buechner

Every goodbye is the birth of a memory.

-Dutch proverb

Every meeting led to a parting, and so it would, as long as life was mortal. In every meeting there was some of the sorrow of parting, but in everything parting there was some of the joy of meeting as well.

-Cassandra Clare, *Clockwork Princess*

Don’t cry because it is over. Smile because it happened.

-Theodor Seuss Geisel, American Writer “Dr. Seuss”

Questions:

How has being a member of the group been for you?

How have you contributed to the group? (We contribute by our very presence, our listening, our sharing and caring.)

Share a particularly meaningful time with this group.

What would you like to leave with the members group — reflections, wisdoms, affirmations.....

What else do you want to share at this last scheduled meeting of this SGM group?

Checking-out/Likes and Wishes: How was the session for you? What can you take into your ongoing life?

Closing Words: (Unison)

Our time in this particular group may have ended,

But our connection with each other and this larger community continues.

We have given to each other, and we have received from each other.

May we take the affirmations and sharings from this session forward as we relate in new ways.