

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
SMALL GROUP MINISTRY
Creativity and Religion
Main Line Unitarian Church, Devon, PA November 2003

Opening Words & Chalice Lighting:

Against the ruin of the world, there is only one defense – the creative act.
(Kenneth Rexroth)

Check in/Personal Sharing (approximately 30 minutes)

(The facilitator should briefly remind the group of confidentiality/
anonymity, that this is not the time for cross conversation, etc.)

Focus Readings: Creativity and Religion

All of us dwell on the brink of the infinite ocean of life's creative power. We all carry it within us; supreme strength, the fullness of wisdom, unquenchable joy. It is never thwarted and cannot be destroyed. But it is hidden deep, which is what makes life a problem. The infinite is down in the darkest, profoundest vault of our being, in the forgotten well-house, the deep cistern. What if we could discover it again and draw from it unceasingly?
(Huston Smith, from The Religions of the World)

Focus Questions: (45-60 minutes)

The desire to create is part of our human heritage and potential. Being creative is not just about painting, acting, gardening, or playing the piano. It can also be an approach to the way we live our lives.

- What are the ways in which you think you are creative?
- Share some things you are proud to have created.
- What creative longings do you have? Can you name some ways you might try to nurture the creator in you.
- Do you see ways spirituality and human creativity are connected, and how are they related for you?
- Share a creative activity or moment that you experienced as religious or spiritual.

Checkout/Likes and Wishes

(This is the time for facilitators to ask participants what they liked about this meeting and what they might wish for future meetings. This is also the time for any discussion of logistics.)

Closing Words & Extinguishing Chalice:

Because creation is always an act of faith, and faith is a spiritual issue, so is creativity. As we strive for our highest selves, our spiritual selves, we cannot help but be more aware, more proactive, and more creative. (Julia Cameron, The Artist's Way)