

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
Small Group Ministry Program
Ending and Starting
Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene, OR, May 2016

CHALICE OR CANDLE LIGHTING OR SOUND A CHIME (2 to 3 minutes for this and silence and opening words)

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OPENING WORDS

I will sing a new song. As difficult as it is, I must learn the new song . . . capable of meeting the new need. I must fashion new words born of all the new growth of my life, my mind and my spirit. I must prepare for new melodies that have never been mine before . . . [May I] rejoice with each new day and delight my spirit in each fresh unfolding. I will sing, this day, a new song . . .
-Howard Thurman, Baptist minister, theologian, author, and civil rights leader

CHECK-IN (up to 20 to 30 minutes total with up to 2 to 3 minutes per person)

COMPLETION OF THE SGM EVALUATION FORM FOR THE FACILITATORS AND THE PARTICIPANTS (Up to 20 minutes)

The evaluation forms may have been given or sent by paper mail or e-mail to group members ahead of time, or may be distributed at this session. Give the completed paper evaluation forms to the facilitator, who will take or send them to the SGM steering committee or the church office. Send the e-mail evaluation forms to infoSGM@uueugene.org.

TOPIC AND SHARING (up to 60 minutes for readings, questions and requests, a few minutes for reflection and making notes if desired, individual sharing, optional open discussion at the end if the group agrees, with an optional 5 minute break about midway in the session)

READINGS

Our lives are full of transitions. We sometimes find ourselves in a time of simultaneous endings and beginnings. We benefit by taking the opportunity to mark these important turning points with awareness, reflection and appreciation.

-Julie Kain, Unitarian Universalist minister

Our time together will be a chapter in the stories of our lives. . . . The good good-bye includes: Acknowledging feelings, sharing memories, offering praise, making a promise, and giving a final blessing.

-Danita Nolan

Our life is an apprenticeship to the truth that around every circle another can be drawn: that there is no end in nature, but every end is a beginning, and under every deep a lower deep exists.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson, American Unitarian minister, writer, and lecturer

Laughter is not at all a bad beginning for a friendship, and it is far the best ending for one.

-Oscar Wilde, British writer

The closing years of life are like the end of a masquerade party, when the masks are dropped.

-Cesare Pavese, Italian poet

Leave-taking, whether forced upon us or carefully planned, can flood us with a mix of feelings....
Every leave-taking represents a kind of death and rebirth. Negotiating this radical process takes its toll,
but often brings unimagined rewards.

-Rev. Margie Allen and Rev. Linda Anderson, Unitarian Universalist ministers

Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand
new ending.

-Attributed to various authors

One day at a time, this is enough. Don't look back and grieve over the past for it is gone. Do not be
troubled about the future, for it has yet to come. Live in the present and make it so beautiful that it will
be worth remembering.

-Liz Roccoforte

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

-Theodor Seuss Geisel, American Writer "Dr. Seuss"

QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS (Please respond to any of the questions, requests, and readings you
feel moved by. It is not necessary to respond to all of them.)

1. Share a story of ending or goodbye and what came next.
2. What endings and startings are coming up for you?
3. What did you hope to experience being part of this group, and to what extent have those hopes been realized?

SHARING (up to 6 to 8 minutes each without interruption, depending on the time available, with
optional open discussion at the end after all have shared)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (up to 3 minutes). Alternatively, this agenda item can be done after
the check-in, if the group decides to do that.

-Any future gatherings of this group are entirely optional, and are not part of the SGM program.

LIKES (celebrations, gratitudes, appreciations for needs met) and WISHES (mournings, requests,
acknowledgements of needs not met)/CHECK-OUT (a few words or phrases from each person who
wants to share, up to 5 minutes total)

CLOSING WORDS (2 minutes for words, and closing)

As we leave this circle of sharing, trust, connections, and learning may our hearts be filled, comforted,
and strengthened as we move forward into our coming days.

EXTINGUISH THE CHALICE OR CANDLE OR SOUND A CHIME (and additional optional
closing ritual if agreed to)

(Preparation for the facilitator. Please bring the SGM Facilitator Training Manual, paper and writing
implements, the session plan, and your calendar/date book.)

Session plan prepared by the Small Group Ministry steering committee 2015-2016 (Bonnie Koenig;
Dick Loescher, chair; Connie Newman).

March 31, 2016

Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene
Small Group Ministry
Evaluation Form for **SGM Participants**, 2015-2016 Church Year

Name (optional) _____ Date _____

Facilitator _____

Thank you very much for participating in a Small Group Ministry (SGM) group. Your feedback is very important to us, and will help us as we develop plans for future SGM programs.

When asked for a numerical rating please indicate your level of satisfaction using the scale of 1 to 5 depending on how well your needs/hopes/wishes/expectations were met:

5 very satisfied

4 satisfied

3 neither satisfied nor unsatisfied

2 unsatisfied

1 very unsatisfied

1. My rating of the value of the SGM Covenant of Right Relationship for me personally and for the group is ____.

What was particularly helpful?

Please share any suggestions to consider for future modification of the Covenant that would better meet your needs and those of the group.

2. My rating of the value and usefulness to me of the sharing and discussions in the group in exploring my own spirituality and personal growth is ____.

Comments.

3. My rating of satisfaction with developing deeper connections and friendships with others in the group is ____.

Comments.

5. My rating of the meaningfulness of the SGM theme and topics for this year is ____.

[Theme UUCE Aspirations: As a people of faith, grounded in our principles, we cultivate lives of meaning, reverence, and depth; we create sanctuary where all hands are held; together we work toward justice, healing, and sustainability.

Topics: Session 1 Getting Acquainted. Review of SGM Program and Covenant review. Session 2 Faith. Session 3 Our Principles. Session 4 Lives of Meaning, Reverence, and Depth. Session 5 Sanctuary Where All Hands Are Held. Session 6 Justice. Session 7 Sustainability. Session 8 Healing. Session 9. Play. Session 10 Ending and Starting.]

Which topics worked particularly well for you, and why?

Were there any topics that did not work well for you, and why?

5. Please suggest topics and themes for consideration for future SGM sessions.

6. My level of satisfaction with the facilitation provided by the facilitator is ____.
Please comment on what you appreciate about the facilitation.

If you have suggestions or requests for any changes in facilitation that would better meet your needs, and those of the group, please share them.

7. My level of satisfaction with my participation in the group is ____.
Comments.

8. Regarding the service project:

-My estimate of the value of the service project to the recipients of the service is ____.
What feedback did you receive from the recipients of the service project?

-My rating of the value to me and the group of planning and doing the service project is ____.
How was planning and doing the service project beneficial to you and the group?

-Were there aspects of planning or doing the service project that were challenging, and why?

-What recommendations do you have regarding future service project plans?

9. Would you recommend participation in a SGM group to others? Yes _____. No _____. Why?

10. Please share any additional thoughts, feelings, and suggestions you may have.

Thank you very much for your evaluation and feedback.

You may fill out this form on paper and give it to the facilitator of your group, or take or send it to the church office. You may copy the electronic version of this form and paste it into the body of an e-mail, fill this form out electronically, and e-mail it to infoSGM@uueugene.org.

Small Group Ministry Steering Committee 2015-2016: Bonnie Koenig; Dick Loescher, chair;
Connie Newman. March 14, 2016

Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene
Small Group Ministry Program
Evaluation Form for **SGM Facilitators**, 2015-2016 Church Year

Name _____ Date _____

Thank you very much for serving as a Small Group Ministry (SGM) facilitator. Your feedback is very important to us, and will help us as we develop training for future SGM facilitators and plans for future SGM programs.

When asked for a numerical rating please indicate your level of satisfaction using the scale of 1 to 5 depending on how well your needs/hopes/wishes/expectations were met:

5 very satisfied

4 satisfied

3 neither satisfied nor unsatisfied

2 unsatisfied

1 very unsatisfied

1. My rating of the effectiveness of the SGM facilitator training this year in presenting information and experience to develop and support the skills needed for the facilitator role is ____.

What was particularly helpful and useful, and why?

What areas of training would you suggest be omitted or emphasized less, and why?

What areas of training would you suggest be added or emphasized more, and why?

2. My rating of the usefulness of the SGM facilitator training manual this year is ____.

What was particularly helpful and useful, and why?

What changes, if any, would you like to see in the manual, and why?

3. My rating of the helpfulness and value of the monthly meetings this year with the SGM facilitators and steering committee is ____.

What was particularly helpful and useful, and why?

What changes, if any, would you recommend for future meetings, or for any additional support as a facilitator that would be helpful, and why?

4. My rating of the value of the SGM Covenant of Right Relationship is ____.

Please share any suggestions for changes that would better meet your needs and those of the group.

5. My rating of the meaningfulness of the SGM theme and topics for this year is ____.

[Theme UUCE Aspirations: As a people of faith, grounded in our principles, we cultivate lives of meaning, reverence, and depth; we create sanctuary where all hands are held; together we work toward justice, healing, and sustainability.

Topics: Session 1 Getting Acquainted. Review of SGM Program and Covenant review. Session 2 Faith. Session 3 Our Principles. Session 4 Lives of Meaning, Reverence, and Depth. Session 5 Sanctuary Where All Hands Are Held. Session 6 Justice. Session 7 Sustainability. Session 8 Healing. Session 9. Play. Session 10 Ending and Starting.]

Which topics worked particularly well for your group, and why?

Were there any topics that did not work well for your group, and why?

6. Please suggest topics and themes for consideration for future SGM sessions.

7. Regarding the service project:

-My estimate of the value of the service project to the recipients of the service is ____.

What feedback did you receive from the recipients of the service project?

-My rating of the value to me and the group of planning and doing the service project is ____.

How was planning and doing the service project beneficial to you and the group?

Were there aspects of planning or doing the service project that were challenging, and why?

-What recommendations do you have regarding future service project plans?

8. Would you consider being a SGM facilitator again, and why or why not?

9. Please recommend people to consider for being a facilitator for future SGM groups.

10. Please recommend people to consider for the SGM steering committee, including yourself.

11. Please share any additional thoughts, feelings, and suggestions you may have.

Thank you very much for your evaluation and feedback.

You may fill out this form on paper and bring it to the final meeting of the SGM facilitators and steering committee, or take or send it to the church office. You may copy the electronic version of this form and paste it into the body of an e-mail, fill this form out electronically, and e-mail it to infoSGM@uueugene.org.

Small Group Ministry Steering Committee 2015-2016: Bonnie Koenig; Dick Loescher, chair.
Connie Newman. March 14, 2016