

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website  
SMALL GROUP SESSION  
**“EXTENDED” FAMILY**  
By the Rev. Glenn H. Turner

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING:

“The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other’s life. Rarely do members of one family grow up under the same roof.” --Richard Bach, *“Illusions”*

CHECK IN: (40 - 50 minutes)

What you share may be about your physical or spiritual health, cares or concerns for loved ones, issues you are facing.

Each person in the group speaks uninterrupted, if time remaining, general response and conversation is welcome. Confidentiality.

FOCUS: Extended” Family

Marsha Norman, in her 1983 play “Night, Mother,” wrote, “Family is just accident...They don’t mean to get on your nerves. They don’t even mean to be your family, they just are.” On the one hand we have the image of “family” in which blood is thicker than water.” On the other we have the idea that “family is just accident” and that one’s true family” is the people with whom our lives most intimately touch, whether they are related to us by birth or not.

Discussion:

What do you think of Bach’s assertion that “Rarely do members of one family grow up under the same roof”? Using this wider notion of family, who might you include in your extended family”? Is there anyone in your “blood family” you would not include? Or, for better or for worse, are they simply a given?

LIKES AND WISHES

How did this session go for you? Is there anything you’d like to call particular attention to?

CLOSING WORDS:

Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow.

Don't walk behind me, I may not lead.

Just walk beside me and be my friend.-- Albert Camus