

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
Small Group Ministry Program
Farewell (and evaluations)
Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene, for end of year, May 2012

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OPENING WORDS

Let us listen...Just for a while let us silence our minds and open our hearts. Just for a while let us listen from within not to gain knowledge or formulate questions, rather to chance upon sacred bonds and profound wisdom. Let us not rouse the intellect, but embrace the spirit. If thoughts cloud the brain may we let them pass. If replies tingle on the tongue let us breathe them away silently, return to them later. But here...in his precious time of sharing let us listen...let the words wash over us and seep into a still quiet pool. Let us listen.

-Adapted from Mary-Elizabeth Cotton

CHECK-IN (Up to 20 to 30 minutes, 2 to 3 minutes per person)

COMPLETION OF THE EVALUATION FORM FOR THE FACILITATORS AND THE PARTICIPANTS (Up to 20 minutes) **[NOTE: Evaluation Forms are at the end of the session.]**

The evaluation form may have been given or sent to group members ahead of time, or may be distributed at this session. Give the completed evaluation forms to the facilitator, who will take or send them to the SGM steering committee or the church office.

TOPIC AND SHARING (Up to 65 minutes for readings, questions, 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

What we call a beginning is often the end and to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from.

-T.S. Eliot

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

Why can't we get all the people together in the world that we really like and then just stay together? I guess that wouldn't work. Someone would leave. Someone always leaves. Then we would have to say good-bye. I hate good-byes. I know what I need. I need more hellos.

-Snoopy quotes by Charles M. Schulz

Absence makes the heart grow fonder, but it sure makes the rest of you lonely.

-Charlie Brown quote by Charles M. Schulz

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

QUESTIONS (Please respond to whichever question or questions you feel moved to answer. It is not necessary to respond to all of the questions. You may also respond to any of the readings that you find to be particularly meaningful.)

1. What did you hope to gain from and give to this group, and to what extent have those hopes been realized?
2. What have you experienced or learned about building community that you think will be useful in the future?
3. What are you looking forward to for yourself?
4. What are you looking forward to for the church?
5. Please share anything else that you would like others in the group to know at this, our final scheduled meeting of the SGM program this church year.

SHARING (Up to 6 to 8 minutes each, depending on the time available, with time at the end for comment and discussion if the group wishes)

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 who wants to share, up to 5 minutes total)

CLOSING WORDS (2 minutes for words, and closing)

We have reached the end of this time for the gathering of memory and for letting the imagination play with future possibilities. We have enjoyed magic moments and edified each other. Shall it be concluded, then? Or will this adventure, now commenced, continue?...Is this ending to be an ending, or merely prelude to new, more glorious beginnings?...In your hearts lies the answer.

-Adapted from Michael A. Schuler

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

Lesson plan prepared by UUCE SGM steering committee (Laura Adams; Dick Loescher, chair; Sandy Moses; Leora White) and Rev. Alicia Forsey. 2/26/12

EVALUATION FORMS

Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene
Small Group Ministry

Evaluation Form for SGM Participants 2011-2012 Church Year

Name _____ 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. This year we asked for a review of the Covenant and the facilitation in session 6. My rating of the usefulness of that review is _____. Would you recommend doing that next year? Yes _____, No _____. Why?

3. 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?

4. 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 (Building Community) and the topics (1 Getting Acquainted, Review of the SGM Program and Covenant. 2 Inspiration. 3 Core Values and Community. 4 Maintaining Self in Community. 5 Understanding Differences. 6 Neighbors, Building Bridges and Building Fences. 7 What Do You Want—Longings, Hopes, Dreams? 8 When Things Fall Apart. 9 Social Justice Passions. 10 Farewell) for the sessions this year is _____.

What topics worked particularly well for you, and why?

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

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

7. 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.

8. My level of satisfaction with my participation in the group is _____.

Comments?

9. 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?

10. 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 or not worthwhile to you or the group, and why?

What recommendations do you have regarding future service project plans?

11. Would you recommend participation in a SGM group to others? Yes ____, No ____. Why?

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

Thank you very much for your evaluation and feedback.

Small Group Ministry Steering Committee 2011-2012 (Laura Adams; Dick Loescher, chair; Sandy Moses; Leora White) and Rev. Alicia Forsey 2/26/12

Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene
Small Group Ministry Program
Evaluation Form for SGM Facilitators 2011-2012 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 and minister 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. This year we asked for review of the Covenant and of the facilitation in session 6. My rating of the usefulness of that review is _____. Would you recommend doing that next year? Yes _____, No _____.

Why?

6. My rating of the meaningfulness of the SGM theme (Building Community) and the topics (1 Getting Acquainted, Review of the SGM Program and Covenant. 2 Inspiration. 3 Core Values and Community. 4 Maintaining Self in Community. 5 Understanding Differences. 6 Neighbors, Building Bridges and Building Fences. 7 What Do You Want—Longings, Hopes, Dreams? 8 When Things Fall Apart. 9 Social Justice Passions. 10 Farewell) for the sessions this year is ____.

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

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

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

8. 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?

9. 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 or not worthwhile to you or the group, and why?

What recommendations do you have regarding future service project plans?

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

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

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

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

Thank you very much for your evaluation and feedback.

Small Group Ministry Steering Committee 2011-2012 (Laura Adams; Dick Loescher, chair; Sandy Moses; Leora White) and Rev. Alicia Forsey 2/26/12