

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website  
Small Group Ministry Program

**Goodbye**

Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene, OR, May 2015

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OPENING WORDS

We look forward to our time together to deepen our understanding, to kindle our compassion, to be strengthened, and to be open to new possibilities.

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](mailto:infoSGM@uueugene.org).

TOPIC AND SHARING (up to 60 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

...various ways to say good-bye. Many of them convey a blessing from God.

*Godspeed* (Middle English): May God speed you on your journey.

*Farewell* (Middle English): May you fare well in the world.

*Auf Wiedersehen* (German): Until I see you again.

*Good-bye* (English): God be with you.

*Adieu* (French): I commend you to God.

*Adios* (Spanish): I commend you to God.

*Vaya con dios* (Spanish): Go with God.

*Slan abhaile* (Irish): Safe homewards.

*Shalom*: Peace.

*Namaste* (Sanskrit): The divine peace in me greets the divine peace in you.

-Adapted from Christine Robinson and Alicia Hawkins, *Soul To Soul*

Some words that mean both hello and goodbye.

Ciao (Italian).

Aloha (Hawaiian): affection, peace, compassion, mercy.

-Adapted from Wikipedia

A life is like a garden. Perfect moments can be had, but not preserved, except in memory.

-Leonard Nimoy, American actor

Saying goodbye, to some people, feels like the end of the world for them; but to others, it feels good.

-Author unknown

All endings, in a way, remind us of the finality of our own.

-Steven Winn, American writer

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 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. What did you hope to gain from and contribute to this SGM group experience, and to what extent have those hopes been realized?
2. Share how your experience with other endings and beginnings impact saying goodbye now.
3. What else do you want to share at this last scheduled meeting of this SGM group?

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 5-10 minutes). Alternatively, this agenda item can be done after the check-in, if the group decides to do that.

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)

Our time in this place may have ended, but our connection to each other and this community remains. Together may we walk the path of justice, speak words of love, live the selfless deed, tread gently upon the earth, and fill the world with compassion.

-Rev. Kathy A. Huff, Unitarian Universalist Minister

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 lesson plan, and your calendar/date book.)

Session plan prepared by the Small Group Ministry steering committee (Lyn Fischrup; Bonnie Koenig; Al Landy; Dick Loescher, chair).

March 20, 2015