

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website  
**Group Member Goodbye**  
By Marc Silling, Eno River UU Fellowship, Durham, NC, July, 2018

**Chalice Lighting/ Opening Words:**

A life is like a garden. Perfect moments can be had, but not preserved, except in memory. *Leonard Nimoy, American actor*

**Check-in:**

**Topic Introduction**                      ***Group Member Goodbye***

Today (member's name) and our covenant group say goodbye. The group we knew will be transformed as it takes a new form.

- There are various kinds of goodbyes
  - Goodbyes that are temporary – A person leaves but we will see him/her again at some other time
  - Situations where there is no choice but to say a goodbye that is forever
  - Choices that are made that remove a person from our lives in some way
  - There are goodbyes to groups of people when someone leaves and changes the group.
- There are consequences to goodbye – hope and grief

**Questions:**

- What makes a good goodbye for you?
- Can you think of a time you had to say goodbye to someone or something and think it was "a good goodbye"?
- Is there a goodbye in your past you'd like to have done differently?
- Is there something you would like to share with (member's name) about your experience of her/him in our covenant group?
- (Member's name) would like to share with the group what she/he will miss.

**Connections & Responses:** *This is a time to supportively respond to something another person has said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared.*

**Likes & Wishes:** How was this session for you? What will you take away from our time together?

**Closing Words and Chalice Extinguishing:**

"Don't cry because it is over. Smile because it happened."  
*Theodor Seuss Geisel, American Writer "Dr. Seuss"*

"No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it is not the same river and he is not the same man." *Heraclitus*