

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website

Session Plan

HOME

Sanctuary Boston, MA, September 29, 2015

Gathering, Welcoming (2 minutes)

Chalice lighting & Opening words (1 minute)

'tis a season of homecomings,
when we gather around common tables
and forge uncommon memories—
some of them blessings, some of them otherwise,
home being what it is.

Let us gather now in a common circle
and forge uncommon connections,
uncommon memories,
through this circle in which we are ever at home.

Check-in (2-3 minutes each @ 20 minutes)

Reading (2 minutes)

I offer you Dwight Young's thoughts on home:

Home is much more than a building or a piece of ground. It's an emotion, a deep-rooted sense of welcome and permanence and belonging. It's the safe, intensely personal realm where you can permit yourself to throw off everything that isn't fundamentally, essentially you. It's a complex, messy stew of throat-catching slants of light, kitchen smells, and déjà vu. If you're lucky and the place has been around for awhile, it can connect you—through faint pencil marks on a doorjamb or a scrap of old wallpaper in a closet—with people you never knew. Some people have a home from childhood; others spend a lifetime looking for it. Once you recognize it, you're bound to it forever—even if it sits in an extreme locale. Even if it disappears.

First response (20 minutes)

Take a moment of silence and consider these questions.

What does "home" mean for you? Is it a place or places, present or past? Perhaps the experience and meaning of home for you is more connected with persons than with place. Or is home a state of mind, a place you can access anywhere you are, even in solitude?
Has the meaning, the actuality, or the experience of "home" changed for you over time? If so, how?

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.

Snack break (5 minutes)

Cross-conversation (30 minutes)

This time is for you to respond to what other shared previously.

Business / Feedback (5 minutes)

Closing (1 minute)

In the words of our New England poet, the late Robert Frost:

“Home is the place where, when you have to go there,

They have to take you in.”

“I should have called it Something you somehow haven’t to deserve.”

Go in love.

Go in peace.

Go home....

Adapted from:

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