

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
SMALL GROUP MINISTRY
Main Line Unitarian Church, Devon, PA
Individuality and Community

Opening Words & Chalice Lighting:

“Each of us brings a separate truth here, we bring the truth of our own life, our own story. We don’t come as empty vessels...but rather we come as full people seeking to add to our truths and add to our stories. This room is rich with truth, rich with experience. We are needy...joyful...frightened...anxious...bored... We all bring our truth with us. May we all recognize the truth and the story in everyone’s life. And may we hear and honor the truths we bring as we gather together. Together we have truths. Together we have a story. Together we are a community.” ~ Penny Hackett-Evans

Check in / Sharing: What is on your mind today?

Focus Thoughts: Individuality and Community

“We enter into relation. We mingle. We want to confirm one another in genuine conversation. We imagine the real, each imagining what another is at this very moment wishing, feeling, perceiving, thinking, and not as a detached content but in the other’s very reality, as a living process in this person. We each, perhaps secretly and bashfully, watch for a ‘yes’ that allows each to be and that comes from one person to another. Our heavenly bread of self-being is passed from one person to another. We want to let no dishonesty arise between ourselves and the other. To resist dishonesty is our essential courage. The will to be what we really are and nothing else is stirred. We practice directness. As we hear the other speak, we hear the voice of our own suppressed longing. We regard the other as who the other is, aware of our differences, affirming the person with whom we speak. Mutuality in speech arises between us. With the most intensive stirring of our being, we imagine the real, becoming whole and unique and aware of the other’s wholeness and uniqueness. Each says what each has to say. Here is a partnership, a genuine meeting, a communion, a community.” ~ adapted from Martin Buber

Focus Questions:

1. How do you want to be in this community?
2. How do you want others to be?
3. What do we experience as helpful?
4. What do you need to know about me; what do I need to know about you?

Checkout/Likes and Wishes: How are you feeling after this session?

Closing Words & Extinguishing Chalice:

“Take courage friends. The way is often hard, the path is never clear, and the stakes are high. Take courage. For deep down, there is another truth. You are not alone.”
~ Wayne Arnason