

Rev. Helen Zidowecki, Small Group Ministry Institute, The Mountain, August 2008

Opening

We came, we saw, we conquered!

Really? Really!

We came from our own worlds, our own lives, our own congregations.

We brought our own ideas, our own questions, our own anxieties.

We brought our desire to learn all that we could, to challenge assumptions, and to have our needs met.

We saw the many pages of ideas, of concepts, of evolving documentation.

We shared our stories, we voiced our concerns, we pondered the future.

We shared ways of doing things, we looked at our own situations in a new light, we called upon each other for ideas.

We conquered our fears of trying something different, of expanding something already in place, of sharing a vision.

We found freedom to dream, to explore, to try once or twice or once again.

We found freedom in our ability to be part of the process, in our personal exploration, and in moving beyond where we were.

Check In: How is it with your spirit at this moment?

Topic:

This group has been like no other, and there will be no other like it. As you prepare to leave, reflect on these things:

1. Share a particularly meaningful moment this week, within or outside of the conference structure.
2. What would you like to leave with the group — reflections, wisdoms.....
3. What commitment are you making for yourself as you leave?

Sing: “ You I receive”

To You I give.

Together we share,

And by this we live.

Check-Out: How was the session for you?

Closing:

We sing about being “lovers of leaving”.

For it is only by leaving that we can share what we have gathered here.

But in that leaving we are taking the treasures of our time together.

Amen and Blessed Be