

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
Small Group Ministry Program
Giving and Receiving Milestones
Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene, OR, May 2014

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OPENING WORDS

May my feet rest firmly on the ground. May my head touch the sky. May I see clearly. May I have the capacity to listen. May I be free to touch. May my words be true. May my heart and mind be open. May my hands be empty to fill the need. May my arms be open to others. May my gifts be revealed to me, so I may return that which has been given, completing the great circle.

-The Terma Collective

CHECK-IN (up to 20 to 30 minutes total with up to 2 to 3 minutes per person)

TOPIC AND SHARING (up to 70 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

There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward. [L] [SEP]

-Kahlil Gibran

I know what I have given you. I do not know what you received.

-Antonio Porchia

You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

-Kahlil Gibran

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.

-William Arthur Ward

The manner of giving is worth more than the gift.

-Pierre Corneille, Menteur

The excellence of a gift lies in its appropriateness rather than in its value.

-Charles Dudley Warner

For so many centuries, the exchange of gifts has held us together. It has made it possible to bridge the abyss where language struggles.

-Barry Lopez

When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand.

-Henri Nouwen

Gracious acceptance is an art - an art which most never bother to cultivate. We think that we have to learn how to give, but we forget about accepting things, which can be much harder than giving....
Accepting another person's gift is allowing him to express his feelings for you.

-Alexander McCall Smith

Refusing to ask for help when you need it is refusing someone the chance to be helpful.

-Ric Ocasek

QUESTIONS (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.)

1. What have been some milestones in your life related to giving and receiving?
2. Tell about a meaningful gift you received, and why it was special to you.
3. What was a satisfying gift you gave, and why it was meaningful for you to do that?
4. What have you observed to be challenging or makes it difficult for someone to give or receive?

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.

-Confirm next meeting date, time, location, and topic.

-Consider discussing the service project.

-Hand out the paper copy, and/or send electronically, the SGM evaluation form for participants to fill out prior to or at the final SGM session for your group.

-Other

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)

May we share with our Beloved Community not only the help we have to offer but the blessings of our expressed needs that strengthen and enrich our circle.

-Rev. Glenn Turner, UU 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 session 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).

April 4, 2014