

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
Small Group Ministry Program
Moving
Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene, Oregon, March 2011

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OPENING WORDS

We come together each time to honor and understand our lives. We bring our pasts and share them; our dreams and express them. We use words, silence, and gestures. Words can't define our lives, but they help us to reach out to each other, that we may be renewed, connected, unburdened.

Adapted from Judy Mannheim

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

Odd how much it hurts when a friend moves away- and leaves behind only silence.

-Pam Brown

When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.

-Helen Keller

Courage is not the absence of fear, but simply moving on with dignity despite that fear.

-Pat Riley

A house is bricks and wooden beams. A home is made of love and dreams.

-Author unknown

It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change.

-Charles Darwin

Leaving home in a sense involves a kind of second birth in which we give birth to ourselves.

-Robert Neelly Bellah

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. Please share about your experience of changes and transitions resulting from moving where you live, work, go to school, or attend church. What has been difficult and challenging, and what has been helpful or rewarding?

2. When you have moved how did you decide what to leave behind (throw away, give away, sell, or put in storage) and what to take with you? What did you learn from those decisions?
3. As you think about the upcoming move of our church to a new location what are you sad or happy about leaving, and what are your concerns and hopes for our future church home building and community?

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)

- Confirm next meeting date, time, location, and topic.
- Consider discussing the service project.
- 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)

As our time together comes to a close, we give thanks for one another, for the chance to share our lives, and to renew our spirits in the company of friends. May we go forth enriched by our gathering, committed to living life fully, to loving life with more passion, and to supporting one another.

-From "Gatherings" by Tony Bushman and Bill Hamilton-Holway.

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 lesson plan, and your calendar/date book.)

Lesson plan prepared by the Small Group Ministry steering committee (Laura Adams; Dick Loescher, chair; Sandy Moses; Leora White) and Rev. Alicia Forsey 2/8/11