

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website  
Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene, OR, February 2015  
Small Group Ministry Program  
**New Learning**

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 in an attitude of openness - not knowing quite what will happen, yet daring to receive a new idea, a new experience, sustenance for our minds and our hearts. We come...seeking human warmth and fellowship in the hands and faces of those around us...seeking reconfirmation and renewal of life, of love, and of hope.

-Adapted from Peter Lee Scott

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**

You can learn new things at any time in your life if you're willing to be a beginner. If you actually learn to like being a beginner, the whole world opens up to you.

-Barbara Sher

People are very openminded about new things – as long as they're exactly like the old ones.

-Charles Kettering

When the student is ready, the master appears.

-Buddhist Proverb

There are some things you learn best in calm, and some in storm.

-Willa Cather

I come from the school of thought that there is no such thing as a mistake. It is just a great learning experience.

-Anonymous

Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.

-Aristotle

It is not that I am so smart. But I stay with the questions much longer.

-Albert Einstein

The illiterate of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.

-Alvin Toffler

We learn more by looking for the answer to a question and not finding it than we do from learning the answer itself.

-Lloyd Alexander

QUESTIONS and REQUESTS (Please respond to any of the questions, requests, and readings you feel moved by. It is not necessary to respond to all of them.)

1. Share about some of your most enjoyable and least enjoyable learning experiences.
2. What factors make it easy or difficult for you to learn something new?
3. What do you wish all people would learn?
4. What would you like to learn more about, and how might that happen?
5. How have you experienced cultural and generational differences in learning?

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.

-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)

And now we take our leave. Before we gather here again, may each of us bring happiness to another's life; may we each be surprised by the gifts that surround us; may we each be enlivened by constant curiosity; and may we remain together in spirit 'til the hour we meet again.

-Barbara Cheatham, 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).

November 14, 2014