

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website  
Small Group Ministry  
**Questioning**  
First Parish Church of Stow and Action, MA, September 2018

**Opening Words and Chalice Lighting**

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lightened the flame within us.  
- *Albert Schweitzer*

**Check-in/ Sharing:** This is a time to mention briefly any major issue or event on your mind that you would like to share.

**Topic: Questioning**

“Sometimes questions are more important than answers.” - *Nancy Willard*

“It is the responsibility of every citizen to question authority” - *Benjamin Franklin*

“The power to question is the basis of all human progress.” - *Indira Gandhi*

“He who asks a question may be a fool for five minutes; he who asks no questions stays a fool forever.” - *Chinese proverb*

"Questioning is the ability to organize our thinking around what we don't know" - *The Right Question Institute*

"Don't just teach your children to read. Teach them to question what they read. Teach them to question everything." - *George Carlin*

"Is questioning the starting point of creativity?" - *Warren Berger*

“In science, too, when you are being creative, you do have to challenge dogma: Why are you assuming such-and-such?” - *Susan Greenfield*

"Can we figure out what questions we have in common if we don't have answers and let those be the tools with which we think about how we create the world we want our children to inhabit?" - *Krista Tippett*

Who, What, Where, When, Why and How form the basis not only for investigative journalism, but of religion, philosophy, national identity, and personal morality. They affect how we view ourselves and others, how we relate to the universe, and if we see ourselves as active agents or obedient followers. The answers have bound people together in communities and torn them apart in wars. Today we would like to explore our personal experiences with questioning.

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. Who did you ask when you had questions as a child? Were your questions answered?

2. What has happened throughout your life when you have questioned authority or conventional wisdom? Can you share how that worked for you?
3. Where has your curiosity led you? Can you describe situations where you followed your curiosity?
4. When have there been times when questioning an assumption has made a difference in your life?
5. Why do you sometimes feel that someone is questioning you they ask you a question?
6. How does the way in which you ask a question affect the answer you receive?

(Please take a few minutes to consider topic and questions, followed by sharing)

**Wrapping Up:** How did you like this topic and session?

**Closing Words:** “Learn from yesterday. Live for today. Hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.” Albert Einstein.