## Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website Session Plan

## **Seeds of Change**

Unitarian Congregation of Taos, New Mexico, submitted by Jeanine Borree

In our Circles, we listen to what we share-- rather than fixing or discussing. Our Circles are active examples of Unitarian beliefs; beliefs such as respect of individual spiritual practices and the connection of all things.

**Lighting the candle**. A seed depends on a whole host of factors to grow - from the fertility of the soil to the right mix of rain and sun to not being eaten by a passing bird. The same goes for an idea. For an idea to really take hold, other factors come into play, from the sharing of that idea to the hearing of that idea to the action taken.

## **Topic:**

Introduction to 1st Prompt

Growing new life in our gardens requires planting seeds when the earth is the right temperature, tending the new life with water and nutrients; weeding, and perhaps communicating with the new life.

1st Prompt

Using garden and gardener as metaphors for our new growth—spiritual and otherwise— what and how do you want to nurture and grow in 2020? What do you envision in 2020?

## Introduction to 2nd Prompt

No matter how pure and hopeful your vision is for the new seed, most often you must weed out what weakens new growth. Protecting the tender new growth, shielding out predators can require difficult decisions and strength of action by the gardener.

2nd Prompt

What might you have to weed out of yourself in order to make new changes in 2020? What might you have to change in your environment?

**Extinguish the Candle**: The fact that I can plant a seed and it becomes a flower, share a bit of knowledge and it becomes another's, smile at someone and receive a smile in return, are to me continual spiritual exercises. Leo Buscaglia