



## SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website

### Service

**Starr King Church, Hayward, CA, Bev Powell**

**Wednesday afternoon group, Noon-2PM, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

#### **Opening and Chalice Lighting** (3 min.)

Sitting down in the circle,

First, unpack.

Walk around inside your head, understand what is going on in there.

Take time to gear down, free yourself from consciousness of freeway, work, family cares.

Then you can be ready to speak and to listen.

Practice, practice, practice.

*(inspired by) Sylvia Boorstein*

#### **Check-In** (30 min) (3 min each)

*Take this time to share how you are spiritually, psychologically, emotionally or physically. Please say your name before you begin speaking.*

#### **Quiet Reflection** (1 min)

*Share a brief silence to honor what each of us has said so far in this group, as well as to make space for what will be said.*

#### **Topic Readings** (10 min)

We are what we do. *Erich Fromm*

All acts of service are meaningless unless they are given with love. *Sai Baba*

Service was as much a part of my upbringing as eating breakfast and going to school. It was clear it was the very purpose of life. In that context, you're not obligated to win. You're obligated to keep trying, to keep doing the best you can every day. *Marian Wright Edelman*

The world cannot always understand one's profession of faith, but it can understand service. *Ian Maclare*

Cherish your best hopes as a faith, and abide by them in action. *Margaret Fuller, Unitarian layperson*

The call to service is a yearning for the heart to live and move beyond ourselves. Love, compassion and gratitude lead many to a life of service. *Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat, Spiritual Literacy*

We include service in our model of Small Group Ministry because service is always both a path and an outcome of spiritual growth. *Rev. Calvin Dame*

#### **Break/ Quiet Contemplation** (5 min)

## **Sharing/Deep Listening**

(40 min)

*Speak about this topic in any way that is comfortable to you. If you choose to use the questions, focus on just one or two, as this will allow you to explore the topic in more depth.*

- Do you think you have found your “authentic purpose” in life? How do you, or how do you want to, make a difference?
- Is service an important part of the way you live your life?
- Tell of a time when you had a strong positive or negative experience with volunteering and how that influences how you integrate service into your life now.
- Some sort of service to the church or the community is planned as a part of the small group ministry program. How can our group fulfill the service component of our small group?

## **Discussion of Potential Projects**

(15 min)

To take a first step toward selecting a service project, let’s discuss suggestions or other ideas you have about what service our Covenant Group could perform, where for the congregation, the denomination, or the wider community.

## **Open Reflection**

(10 min)

*This is a time to supportively respond to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared.*

## **Likes & Wishes**

(5 min)

*What did you appreciate about this gathering – in yourself, in others, in the gathering as a whole? What would you like to see change at future gatherings?*

## **Closing Reading/ Extinguish Chalice**

(1 min)

What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us. What we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal. *Albert Pine*