

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
SMALL GROUP MINISTRY
Special Moments of Educational Ministry
Rev. Helen Zidowecki

Opening Words:

There, in the middle of the church hallway, a toddler and an older man crouched down, looking at something. I never figured out what had *their* attention, but their mutual focus certainly caught *mine*. They were there for what seemed like eternity – and it was. Eternity is when we engage and time is suspended. And in that period, souls meet, sparks of the spirits are ignited, and a warmth is generated for the participants – and for the observers.

Check In: How is it with your spirit today?

Topic/Activity

Share a time when you felt special connections within the educational setting of your congregation. Reflect on the impact on you.

Suggestion: Pause for about a minute after each sharing to feel the impact.

How are opportunities for such special moments enhanced?

What within the educational setting of the faith community allows these moments to occur?

How does the educational ministry strengthen our spiritual practice?

Check-out/Likes and Wishes: How was this session for you?

Closing Words:

You are experiencing a special moment when you stop and talk about a pet dying, or answer a question about something that a child has heard -- even when it doesn't fit into the planned lesson – or hear a spiritual connection of a youth or adult.. These special moments do not come every day and are usually not predicted -- which is part of what makes them so special! One of the greatest gifts of a teacher is to facilitate and utilize these special moments. This requires being in the present moment and being willing to share of self. And this is what makes education a ministry.

Helen Zidowecki, Rev. February 2012