

Stories as Shared Ministry

Unitarian Universalist Community Church, Augusta, ME, Rev. Helen Zidowecki, Nov. 2016

Opening Words:

Oh, what stories I have to tell!

The glorious and the mundane are the fodder for the tale!

I can make you laugh, I can make you cry.

But, tell them I will not.

You may laugh at the experiences and feelings they hold, or say they're not true.

Or you may prefer the stories that are about you.

We all have stories to tell and we need a safe place to speak.

Stories are shared ministry that open hearts and minds.

So share through talking and listening, and blend our stories into a tapestry of life.

Check in: How is it with you today?

Topic/Activity:

Small group ministry provides a space and opportunity to tell our stories.

Small group ministry provides the intimacy and bonding, safety for telling our stories.

Small group ministry allows us to tell our own stories, and allow others to tell their own stories.

As participants , we have our stories accepted, without dispute or needing to explain.

We can listen without having to respond

We connect with the stories of others, be they of joy or difficulty, and realize our common humanity.

We gain insight into our spiritual journeys as we relay our stories.

We tell stories here that we are not comfortable telling elsewhere.

In sharing our stories, we connect in a way that allows ministry to occur.

1. In telling and hearing our stories, what are the points of connection, such as common people, places and things; feelings; fears, hopes and wishes.....?
2. Is telling stories in small group ministry different than telling stories in other settings?
3. What makes a story memorable?

Likes and Wishes: How was the session for you?

Closing words:

Oh, what stories we've told !

The glorious and the mundane are the fodder for the tales!

We laughed, we cried. We say 'hello' and now we say 'good-bye.'

You held my stories and my telling in trust and respect.

Parts of your stories I'll not forget, for our stories are part of us still.

Until we meet again and renew the telling of stories of our lives.