

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website  
Small Group Ministry  
**Transitions in Religious/Congregational Leadership**  
Rev. Helen Zidowecki

**Opening Words** (By the facilitator, in unison, or reading around the group)

For everything there is a season and a time for every position under heaven.

A time to dream and a time to be concrete,

A time to prepare and a time to reflect,

A time to inquire and a time to wait,

A time to time to stay and a time to leave,

A time to greet and a time to grieve,

A time to give and a time to receive,

A time to learn and a time to teach,

A time to cause change and a time to let things settle,

A time to minister and a time to be ministered to,

A time to be a neophyte and a time to be the sage.

For everything there is a season and a time for every position under heaven.

Helen Zidowecki

**Check in:** How are things for you today?

**Activity/Topic**

Consider a previous transition in leadership within the congregation. If the transition was smooth, what made it so? If it was not smooth, what were some of the factors?

What are the opportunities and challenges of transition for the leaders and the congregation?

What impact do you personally have on the transition process for yourself and others?

If you are a leader in the transition, how does transition affect your sense of your role in the congregation? Your spiritual journey?

What words of wisdom do you have regarding transitions of religious/congregational leadership?

**Likes and Wishes:** How did the session go for you?

**Closing:**

All things change, all roles, all positions.

Changes may come sooner or later. But they come.

We have an impact on change, whether by action or inaction.

We need to heed well our contributions to the change that is inevitable.

Helen Zidowecki, March 2016