

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
SMALL GROUP MINISTRY: WELCOMING CONGREGATIONS

What is Your Identity?

Northern New England District 2009

This session was developed for a Welcoming Congregation Conference, and has been expanded for consideration of broad issues of diversity.

Opening: Singing “We Are a Gentle, Angry People” (*Singing the Living Tradition, #170*)

1. We are a gentle, angry people, and we are singing, singing for our lives.

We are a gentle, angry people, and we are singing, singing for our lives.

2. We are a justice-seeking people, and we are singing, singing for our lives.

3. We are young and old together, and we are singing, singing for our lives.

4. We are a land of many colors, and we are singing, singing for our lives.

5. We are gay and straight together, and we are singing, singing for our lives.

6. We are a gentle, angry people, and we are singing, singing for our lives.

Check in/Sharing: How is it with your spirit today?

Topic:

We are a gentle loving people, but who are we?

Who would you include in the “we”...

Everyone who.....(name something about yourself, like physical characteristic, background, particular way of thinking or doing something)

Who was left out?

How do you describe yourself?

What difference would having identity other than the one you have make in the way you live or interact with others? The way that you think and talk? What you can do or cannot do?

What difference does your identity make in life in general?

In Unitarian Universalism?

In our congregations?

How can we make our church community more welcoming?

Likes and Wishes: How was this session for you?

Closing: We are a gentle loving people.....Let us take who we are, who we would like to be, and how we would like to become into our lives, that we can be more welcoming to ourselves and others.

Helen Zidowecki, January 2009