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

Opening Words:

"We are all religious, spiritual creatures, driven to find a pattern of meaning in our lives. If you have trouble finding meaning in creeds and commandments of traditional religion, a Unitarian Universalist congregation may be the place for you.

Here, our own life experience counts fully as much as that of any ancient people.

Here, the cumulative experience of the people called bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgender, questioning —and heterosexual--is a sacred story that informs our spirituality.

Here, intuition and our inner creative capacities count; not just tradition, church hierarchy, and bible.

Here, reason and the findings of science count.

And here, prophetic voices, voices of wisdom and vision, from whatever source, count." adapted from flier, "Unitarian Universalism: A serious spiritual alternative....."

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

Topic:

Share a time when you felt acceptance of sexual and gender diversity for yourself or another. Share a time when you did not feel acceptance. What was the impact of the experiences on your sense of well-being?

How is the Welcoming Congregation related to your life? What difference does it make to you spiritual journey and personal faith development?

Closing:

"People of all sexual and gender identities belong here. Our religious movement belongs to a larger future, not to a constricting past.Our movement has to do with the qualitative evolution of human consciousness."

adapted from the flier, "Unitarian Universalism: A serious spiritual alternative....."

Likes and Wishes: How was this session go for you?

Rev. Helen Zidowecki, Welcoming Congregation Conference 11.2006