

Invitation to a Small Group Ministry!

Want to meet new folks?
Looking to deepen your connection to
others at UUC?
Interested in exploring your own values,
beliefs, and connection to
Unitarian Universalism?

Enter a caring circle for personal growth
and shared reflection. The Small Group
Ministry Program offers a meaningful,
engaging opportunity for spiritual
exploration with others! Small Group
Ministry is a small group of 6-10 people
who meet together over the year to share
from their experiences and journeys. This
year, Small Group Ministry sessions offer a
way to dive into our monthly worship
themes at UUC. Won't you join us?

Warmly, Rev. Dara

Benefits of Small Group Ministries to Individuals and the Congregation

Participants will have an opportunity to:

- Build connections between diverse people in the congregation.
- Identify and use your spiritual gifts.
- Feel affirmed and accepted.
- Discover what you truly value and to express those values in your actions.
- Focus on active listening and caring relationships.
- Experience a high level of caring and intimacy.
- Facilitate shared ministry in a rapidly growing congregation.



What a typical Small Group Ministry might look like:

Small Group Ministry is made up
of 6-10 members who have
committed to meeting together
twice monthly for a period of 6-10
months. In June the group
celebrates the journey and
disbands.

Groups are guided by a trained
facilitator to explore diverse and
significant topics. In 2014-2015
topics will be inspired by UUC's
monthly worship themes.

Groups will meet either at UUC or
in members homes.



Small Group Ministries

Mission:
Build Connection
Create Community
Spiritual Growth

Small Group Ministries:
What are they?

Small Group Ministries

How do you want to live your life?

Ever stopped to consider it? In a busy world, it can be hard to take the time to sit down and think with intent about how we want to live our lives. Intention requires creating a vision for ourselves, planning goals, and implementing those activities that move us toward the vision.

But, of course, life has a habit of happening in spite of our plans. So it is our *attitude* toward what happens that makes a difference in how our life rolls along through the years.

Small Group Ministry groups of 6-10 people can help us create that attitude, make those plans and feel better about ourselves, the people around us and our congregation.

Each group crafts its own covenant, or set of ground rules on how members interact. The covenant works to create a safe space for deep sharing and personal reflection and generally includes guidelines for confidentiality.

New members are received into Small Group Ministry twice during the year, and agreements are made regarding how to welcome new members when they join. Small Group Ministry is open to all UUC members and friends.



The aim is to celebrate and talk about our individuality, discover personal truths, find meaning in our lives, live our principles and make contributions to our congregation and our community.

WHAT WILL WE BE DOING?

Searching:

A desire for change and curiosity
Propel movement to search for questions and answers.

Discovering:

Discovery can occur as an "AHA" moment, or it may take a long time to sink in.

Assimilating:

Mold the new into existing
scheme of attitudes, values, beliefs and faith.

Sharing:

Once you have drawn the picture of your truth, this novel new word portrait of yourself demands to be shared...

SAMPLE TOPICS

The value of a covenant for any group.

What path are we taking to find out how we *want* to live our lives. What is our "spiritual journey."

Attitude adjustment: considering alternative ways of looking at how we think of the world.

Unitarian Universalist Principles, our personal interpretations.

Compassion, anger, joy and many other intriguing topics.

TIME LINE

Groups are forming this fall!

Info session after the Sunday service on **September 7.**

Sign up by **September 14.**

Groups begin the week of **September 22.**

Second round of openings to join a small group: November.

Third round of openings: January.

Small Group Ministries celebration and conclusion: June.

HOW TO REGISTER

To join a Small Group Ministry, go to this link - <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9FFX57K> and fill out the short questionnaire or contact Barbara Taylor at smallgroupministry@uucnr.org. Paper registration forms will also be available at UUC. You will be notified when a group that matches your needs is formed.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES PROGRAM

Barbara Taylor, SGM Coordinator

Facilitators:

Michael Barrett

Marilyn DuPont

Dave Lievsay

Cynthia Luke

Betty Powell

The function of a facilitator is to keep the group on topic, follow the meeting agenda and facilitate discussion.