



SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

Radical Hospitality at UUSF?

We are here to awaken from the illusion of our separateness.

- *Thich Nhat Hanh*

I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome... I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it to me.

- *Matthew 25*

Opening and Chalice Lighting

I light the chalice to symbolize the acceptance of one another and our welcoming of diversity.

Along with the diversity of our inherited human characteristics, we have diversity of religious belief and practice.

We have:

meditators seeking inner peace,

social-activist agitators crying out for justice,

rational,-humanist cogitators,

celebrators of human ritual,

philosophically-committed ethicists,

and providers of humanitarian service to those in need.

And we have those persons who embody all of these at once,

We come together in community and friendship to seek meaning in our lives...

- *Ruth Ramsey*

Quiet Reflection

Sit in silence to become present and present to each other.

Sharing/ Check-In

Take two or three minutes to let us know how you are in the ways that are important to you. Consider your spiritual, emotional, physical, and mental well-being.

Topic Readings

One New Testament word incorporates a profound truth: *xenos*, the word that means "stranger" in Greek, also means "guest" and "host." This one word signals the essential mutuality that is at the heart of hospitality. No one is strange except in relation to someone else; we make one another guests and hosts by how we treat one another.

- *Ana Marie Pineda, "Hospitality" from Practicing our Faith*

In neighborhoods across the nation, the church is often in a good position not only to gather [people]...each Sunday but also to prepare them and expand the circle of those who are made welcome in their communities. Unfortunately, the church's walls

sometimes seem to shut people out instead of welcoming the, and even what happens inside those walls can have the effect of excluding others...
- Ana Marie Pineda, "Hospitality" from *Practicing our Faith*

Break/Quiet Contemplation

...it would seem that some form of tribalism is inherent in human nature... But everything we are learning about the nature of Being is making it apparent that "us" versus "them" is a violation of Creation. Tribalism must be transformed into community. We are learning from astrophysics and particle physics and cellular biology that all of Creation exists only in interdependence and unity.
- Madeleine L'Engle, *Glimpses of Grace: Daily Thoughts and Reflections*

Sharing/Deep Listening

Speak about this topic in any way that is comfortable to you. If you choose to use the questions, focus on just one or two, as this will allow you to go deeper into the topic.

- Consider UUSF as a community. What kind of community is it? Is it one community or several, or many? If you experience more than one community, do you experience these communities as unified or not? Are they in conflict, indifferent, friendly to one another?
- Consider other communities in which you have participated. Did you learn anything in those communities that could help UUSF be more as you wish it were? And vice versa?
- Many people at UUSF talk about this being a "welcoming community." Is this a buzz word? What does it mean? Have you experienced this community as welcoming, either in your position as guest or host?
- Are you comfortable being a host? Equally comfortable regardless of whom the guest is? Are some differences between you and the guest more or less likely to make you act as host? Do you know why you have your reaction, and would you share it with us?

Discussion

This is a time to supportively respond to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared. ALWAYS, LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN, WITH YOUR HEART AS WELL AS YOUR HEAD.

Checkout/ Likes & Wishes

What did you like about this meeting? What would you like to see change at future meetings?

Closing Reading/ Extinguish Chalice

Alone, you can fight,
you can refuse, you can
take what revenge you can
but they will roll over you.

But two people fighting

back to back can cut through
a mob, a snake dancing file
can break a cordon, an army
can meet an army.

Two people can keep each other
sane, can give support, conviction,
love, massage, hope, sex..
Three people are a delegation,
a committee, a wedge. With four
you can play bridge and start
an organization, With six
you can rent a whole house,
eat a pie for dinner with no seconds,
and hold a fund raising party.

A dozen make a demonstration.
A hundred fill a hall.
A thousand have solidarity and our own newsletter;
ten thousand, power and your own paper;
a hundred thousand, your own media;
ten million, your own country.

It goes on one at a time, it starts when you care
to act, it starts when you do
it again after they said no,
it starts when you say We
and know who can you mean, and each
day you mean one more.
- Marge Piercy