

Spiritual Journeys *(Exploring All Souls Small Group Ministry Session)

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING

We gather this hour as people of faith with joys and sorrows, gifts and needs. We light this beacon of hope, sign of our quest for truth and meaning in celebration of the life we share together.

Singing the Living Tradition # 448 Christine Robinson

PURPOSE: We come together to build connections and talk about what deeply matters to us.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Welcome! We're glad you have all joined us this morning. This small group is simply an opportunity for us to get to know one another while sharing our spiritual journeys. We will be doing this using a "Small Group Ministry" format. We will begin with brief introductions. Going around the circle, I'd like to invite you each to tell us your name and, if you like, to put something in the bag that would keep you from being fully present right now. You can say what that is or simply put it in the bag and pass it on. I'll start ...

READING OF GROUP COVENANT: We will be here for about an hour and while here, we will abide by a set of agreed upon ground rules (called a Covenant). For the sake of time, here are the proposed ground rules (covenant):

1. We will practice deep listening. This means we will simply listen when another talks without "cross talk" (commenting, interrupting, negating, or giving advice).
2. We will share the time equally and fairly.
3. We will share our reflections from our own personal experiences.

Will you agree to abide by with these ground rules (covenant) while we are here this today?

SHARING: Please share from your personal experience. Each of us is on our own, unique journey. We come from different faith traditions, yet we have all arrived here at All Souls.

Each person in the group speaks uninterrupted; we have ___ (#) people here, so each person will have about ___ minutes to share. If time remains at the end, discussion about the topic in general is welcome. We will end this session at _____.

What faith tradition did you grow up in, if any?

How did you find your way to Unitarian Universalism?

What brought you here to All Souls?

CLOSING: I'd like to thank each of you for sharing, for taking the time to be with us in this circle. To close our time together I'd like to pass the bag back around so that you can take out what you put in, and, if you'd like, to say one-two words about something you liked about our time together. Again, let's go around in a circle. I'll begin ...

CLOSING WORDS:

What we call a beginning is often the end

And to make an end is to make a beginning.

The end is where we start from

We shall not cease from exploration

And the end of all our exploring

Will be to arrive where we started

And know the place for the first time.

Singing the Living Tradition # 685 T.S. Eliot