

Fellowship Circle Resources - Topics: Community

Opening Words & Chalice Lighting

"Each of us brings a separate truth here, we bring the truth of our own life, our own story. We don't come as empty vessels ...but rather we come as full people to add to our truths and add to our stories. This room is rich with truth, rich with experience. We are here: needy. ..joyful. ..frightened. ..anxious ...bored. ..We all bring our truth with us.

May we all recognize the truth and the story in everyone's life. And may we hear and honor the truths we bring as we gather together. Together we have truths. Together we have a story. Together we are a community." --Penny Hackett-Evans

Check-in

The facilitator should briefly remind the group of confidentiality/anonymity, that this is not the time for cross conversation, etc.

Focus: Community

" A community is made up of people who enjoy and are ready to participate in mutual helpfulness. Not that they are busybodies always prying into one another's affairs. They are not conscious 'do-gooders,' but they know how to be helpful without making a big thing of it." --Hany Meserve (UU Minister) Questions: -How do we want to be in community ? -How do we want others to be? -What do we experience as helpful?

-What do you need to know about me; what do I need to know about you?

Note: you don't have to ask all of the questions, nor do you have to limit yourself to these examples.

Check-Out: likes and wishes

The facilitators ask participants to briefly say what they liked about this meeting and what they might wish for future meetings. This is also the time if there are any "housekeeping" announcements to be made: next meeting place (if rotating), who'll bring opening reading (if rotating), who'll bring snacks, etc. This is also the time to bring to the group's attention any church-related announcements.

Closing Reading

"And now we take our leave. Before we gather here again: may each of us bring happiness into another's life; may we each be surprised by the gifts that surround us; may we each be enlivened by constant curiosity; and may we remain together in spirit 'till the hour we meet again."

--Barbara Cheatham

[Adapted from the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta, Maine]