

## Notes to Leader for Session G31 -- Our Place in Nature

### Session Preparation

The depth of this session will be enhanced if each member thinks about the topic in advance. Please distribute the preparation sheet at the end of the previous session and make sure absent members receive a copy. **In addition, pass out the list of environmental projects, and remind members to bring their calendars to the gathering.** Have extra copies at the gathering for people who have forgotten to bring their copies.

Advance preparation of some of the readings will also enhance the session. At least a week before the gathering, ask a group member who enjoys reading aloud and does it well to practice the poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay (which is found just before the sitting in silence in the order of worship). Ask another member to practice reading the excerpt from Walden.

### Preliminaries

Ecology is a topic that lends itself well to a group service project, and April -- the month of Earth Day -- is a particularly good time to do an environmentally related project. Discuss the possibility of the group committing to a one-time service project. SGM has provided a list of local projects from which your group can choose. You may wish to ask for a volunteer to act as coordinator for the group's involvement.

Choose someone to light the chalice and read the opening words.

### Timekeeping

Use this timetable as an aid to keep the gathering on track. If the deep-listening portion goes over the allotted time, you can eliminate the discussion.

|                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Preliminaries  | 15 minutes          |
| Opening        | 1 minute            |
| Check-in       | 15 minutes          |
| Reading        | 5 minutes           |
| Silence        | 3 minutes           |
| Deep listening | 60 minutes          |
| Reading        | 2 minutes           |
| Discussion     | 15 minutes          |
| Singing        | 1 minute            |
| <u>Closing</u> | <u>1 minute</u>     |
| Total          | approx. 120 minutes |

### Preparation for the Next Session

Make sure everyone gets a copy of the preparation for the next session.