

## Notes to Leader for G108 - What Makes a Community Work?

### SPECIAL NOTES:

1. This year (2004), our congregation will spend a significant amount of time deciding who we are as a church community and what kind of leadership we want from a senior minister. This session is intended to help SGM members begin the thinking process in a personal, not “official” way. Encourage members to attend congregational meetings, workshops, and other gatherings sponsored by the search committee and church leadership, where the real work will be done as a community.
2. The next session, G109 “Sorting our Values,” is a companion to this session and we suggest that you schedule it for the next meeting.
3. The preparation will require some time, so please ask members not to wait until the last minute to do it.
4. For the session, please supply a ball or length of yarn, string, or twine to be strung between the members. You may need as much as 10 feet per person, depending on the arrangement of your seating area. The instructions for using the yarn are in the Order of Worship, and you will want to review them before the session.
5. Before the session begins, cut the sheet of quotations into strips and put them into a container that can be passed around the circle. Before distributing them, make clear that the quotations express opinions from a variety of viewpoints and are intended to stimulate thought, not to present some “party line.”

### Session Preparation

The depth of this session will be enhanced if each member thinks about the topic in advance. Distribute the preparation sheet at the end of the prior session and encourage members to look at it early in the week. Make sure absent members receive a copy. Have extra copies available at the gathering for people who have forgotten to bring theirs.

### Preliminaries

Prior to beginning the session, take a few minutes to go over the announcements of church events given at the last leader meeting or from a recent church bulletin. Also, remind members of the next meeting date. Get a volunteer to light the chalice. Remind everyone that today’s sharing is intended to be about communities members have participated in other than our church community.

### Timekeeping

Use this timetable as an aid to keep the gathering on track.

Preliminaries .....	2 minutes
Opening.....	2 minutes
Check-in.....	15 minutes
Ritual and Readings from the Common Bow .....	15 minutes
Silence.....	5 minutes
Deep listening .....	60 minutes
Discussion .....	15 minutes
Singing .....	5 minute
Closing .....	1 minute
Total.....	approx. 120 minutes