



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF
SAN JOSE

Professional Ministry

"It may seem hard to think of pizza making and car parking as ministries. But ministry is, I believe, the work and service a church offers to its members and to the world...[S]eeing every function of the church as a ministry empowers the people in tremendous ways."
- Barbara Wells

Preliminaries Get volunteers to light the chalice and read the opening and closing. Pass the bowl of quotations. Announce church events.

Opening/ Chalice Lighting *Go around the circle and have each person read one line.*

-Susan Manker-Seale (read round the circle)
Much of ministry is a benediction --
A speaking well of each other and the world --
A speaking well of what we value:

honesty
love
forgiveness
trust

A speaking well of our efforts --
A speaking well of our dreams.
This is how we celebrate life:
Through speaking well of it,
Living the benediction,
and becoming as a word
well-spoken.

Check-in

Reading *Please share a high or a low from the past week.*

- The Reverend Frank Carpenter
A minister is not like a bus or a car,
carrying us to our destination, but rather
like a sign, or perhaps holding up a
signpost, which she moves, running after,
running past us, as we think we are on the
path,
asking us if we are still on the path.
The minister's role in a healthy
congregation is clarifying values, holding
up vision, asking, what is your talk?
What is your walk? What are you serving?

Sitting in Silence

Sharing/ Deep Listening *Please share your thoughts on the preparation for this session.*

Singing *After all have shared:*
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Discussion This is a time to respond briefly to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared.

Singing *#298, Singing the Living Tradition*
Wake now my senses, and hear the earth call; Feel the deep
power of being in all;
Keep with the web of creation your vow, Giving, receiving as
love shows us how.

Wake, now, compassion, give heed to the cry; Voices of
suffering fill the wide sky;
Take as your neighbor both stranger and friend, Praying and
striving their hardship to end.

Wake, now, my vision of ministry clear; Brighten my pathway
with radiance here;
Mingle my calling with all who will share; Work toward a
planet transformed by our care.

Closing/ Extinguishing the Chalice *--Jean M. Rickard*
We have a calling in this world:
We are called to honor diversity,
To respect differences with dignity,
And to challenge those who would forbid it.
We are people of a wide path.
Let us be wide in affection
And go our way in peace. Amen.
Sabbath is waiting quietly for us, a haven of calm, a nest of
gentleness, a sweet apple on the tree of peace.
Let us reach toward it, and taste it for ourselves.