



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF
SAN JOSE

A LEADER STEPS DOWN

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.

—Albert Schweitzer

Preliminaries Distribute objects.
Leader Stepping Down reads Responsive Reading

Opening *Leader:* Today we are saying Thank You to [name].
Her/His leadership will be missed, and we
acknowledge that this will change our circle.
However, as the Taoists say, you cannot dip your toe
in the same river twice: we also acknowledge that
all life is change, and we can only go forward.

I invite you to join me in a moment of silence, and to
think about what you will take with you from
[name's] special style of leadership.

Sitting in Silence

Responsive Love cannot remain by itself - it has no meaning.
Reading

--Mother Teresa,
Hymnal #562

*Love has to be put into action and that action is
service.*

Whatever form we are, able or disabled, rich or poor,

*It is not how much we do, but how much love we put
in the doing;*

A lifelong sharing of love with others.

Ritual Take a moment to silently bless the items that
were distributed, with a private wish or prayer
for the person who will be stepping down.

Then give time for everyone to hand their item
to the person who will be stepping down,
giving them an opportunity to say one thing
that they will remember from that person's
leadership of the group.

Now the member who is stepping down may
share what her/his role as leader has meant to
him/her.

Closing: Unison Reading

-- Rainer Maria
Rilke, from "*Letters
to a Young Poet*"

(Leadership) itself is like a wonderful wide
tapestry in which every thread is guided by an
unspeakably tender hand, placed beside another
thread, and held and carried by a hundred
others.

(*Name*), our hearts are full with gratitude for
your service to our Small Group.