



## **SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH  
OF SAN JOSE

# **Creating a Small Group Ministry Covenant**

“A mission statement asks a congregation to focus on what it wants to be or mean to the community in which it exists. More than merely a statement, a mission should be a congregation’s articulation of: Why do we exist? What do we exist for? In what ways do we live out and give expression to this sense of purpose in the surrounding community?”

A vision statement is a definition of how the mission will evolve over time. It is a view of what a congregation wants at some point in the future. A vision inspires a congregation to nurture the gifts and talents of its membership towards a greater fulfillment of its mission.

A congregational covenant responds to the question: “What are the qualities that sustain our life together as a congregation engaged in mission? A covenant is our expression of how we agree to “walk together” as a community of faith.”

-Rev. Margo McKenna

**Preliminaries** Upcoming church events; volunteers to light chalice, read or sing opening words, lead responsive reading.

**Opening / Chalice Lighting**  
-Rabbi Hillel  
“If I am not for myself, who will be for me?  
If I am not for others, what am I?  
And if not now, when?”

**Check-in** Take a minute or two to share briefly the high point or the low point of your life since we last met.

**Reading Round-the-Circle**  
SGM FAQ 1.2  
What way is small group ministry to be ministry?  
SGM FAQ 6.1  
Is each member expected to make certain commitments to the group, to the congregation, or to the wider community? Yes:  
SGM FAQ 6.1  
Is the group expected to make certain commitments to each member? If so, what are the expected commitments?

*Please refer to the Preparation Page*

**Creating a SGM Covenant**

*SILENCE*

What are the ways we want to be together?

*SILENCE*

What are the promises we want to make to each other?

*SILENCE*

What do we need from each other?

**Discussion**

This is the time to put together people’s responses to the above questions in a final covenantal form: *We the members of Small Group Ministry covenant together to:*

**Singing**  
- Hymnal #1

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 my reason, reach out to the new;  
Join with each pilgrim who quests for the true;  
Honor the beauty and wisdom of time;  
Suffer thy limit, and praise the sublime

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

**Reading your Small Group Covenant**

*Read together in unison the covenant you just created.*

**Extinguishing the Chalice**  
- Hymnal #456

*Join hands or link arms as you read the closing words together:*

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth,  
The warmth of community,  
Or the fire of commitment.  
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.