

Chalice Conversations

Sparking the flame of your UU Journey

Purpose/Time Limit

- To get to know others in our church community through creative interchange.
- To spark a conversation about each other's UU journey.

A Note About Creative Interchange

- The basis of creative interchange is the belief that the magic is in the interaction between two people. Enter into the conversation with the realization that you might be changed by the experience
- Individual meetings are the most radical tool of community building.
- It is an art, not a science and you learn by doing.

How to Engage

- Most important is your ability to listen and conduct an interactive dialog.
- Art of asking the right questions, to encourage the person to talk about what is important to them.
- Remember this is not an interview, but a mutual sharing. Take the time to share your story as well as ask them theirs.
- Leave without asking them for anything or getting more involved, then make an invitation based on their interest.
- Probe but don't pry, respect their space, keep the conversation focused. This is an opportunity to be curious about the person, their passions, and their story.
- Ask yourself in the middle of the meeting: Is this person sharing their story with me? Am I finding out what this person really cares about? If not, try and share a story that tells what is most important to you and see if the person responds with a story of their own. Try to be relational, share some of your story

How to Set up a Conversation

- Call to make arrangements for a conversation and explain:
 - 1) Who you are.
 - 2) That you are from First Unitarian.
 - 3) Why you want to meet with this person.
- Questions people ask: Why me? What's this about?
- Arrange to meet at a home or a public location.

Keys to Relational Meeting

A. Curiosity About Person, Vision, Interests

i. Opening: Who am I and Who are you.

- How long have you been in the area?
- What brought you to Des Moines?
- How long have you been involved in the church?
- Can you tell me about your family?

II.

- What is it like first coming to church? How is it now?
- Why did you get involved and why do you stay involved?
- What do you value? Why is it important to you?
- When you were a child what did you do for fun (how did you play) and how has this stayed the same or changed as you have gotten older?
- Can you tell me about a time when you have felt the most joy in your life?
- Where do you get energy? What gives you energy?
- What is your spirituality like? How has it changed over your life?
- Tell me about the first time you came to First Unitarian. What brought you through the doors and what keeps you coming back.

III.

- Is there a connection between what you are passionate about, what you are concerned about and what you enjoy doing with what is going on at First Unitarian?
- How does First Unitarian help you connect to your spirituality and how does it not?
- What would you change about First Unitarian?
- Are there things at the church that you would want to be involved with that you currently aren't? or Don't exist? What are they?

- Are there things keeping you from being connected at First Unitarian?

B. Post Reflections:

- How were you changed, impacted and/or inspired?
- Any Follow-up interactions?
- Contact Lori with a brief report.