

# Journey to Belonging

## Details:

- 3 month group
- 90 minutes
- Weeknight evenings or Saturday mornings
- 6-9 people in each group

## Basic Outline:

- Opening Reading
- Chalice Lighting
- Check in
- Discussion Topic:
  - Past: Share about where we came from; spiritual journey
  - Past: What do we want to uplift/celebrate from our past; what do we want to let go of
  - Present: What we were looking for when we found the Fellowship; why we stayed
  - Future: What do we want to explore; where will our journey take us
- Closing Reading



## First Meeting:

**Supplies: Tea, water, hymnals, chalice, matches, paper, markers**

- Opening Reading: #442 We Bid you Welcome Responsive Reading
- Chalice Lighting
- Ground Rules/Covenant for group
- Check in
- Discussion Topic: Share about where we came from
  - Writing/drawing: Spiritual Journey  
Draw, outline, or map out the main parts of your spiritual journey.
  - Sharing journeys individually
- Closing Reading: "Spiritual growth is an individual affair that is best pursued in groups."  
by Henry Miller



## **Second Meeting:**

### **Words Adapted from Peter Lee Scott**

We come together in an attitude of openness - not knowing quite what will happen, yet daring to receive a new idea, a new experience, sustenance for our minds and our hearts.

We come with an attitude of praise, expressing our thankfulness for the good that has come into our lives.

We come with an attitude of humility, knowing how much we need one another, how alone we can be in the world, how vulnerable if we face life solely by ourselves.

We come in the spirit of love, seeking human warmth and fellowship in the hands and faces of those around us.

We come in the spirit of joy, seeking reconfirmation and renewal of life, of love, and of hope.

- Chalice Lighting
- Check in
- Discussion Topic: What do we want to uplift/celebrate from our past; what do we want to let go of
  - Discussion of important parts on our spiritual journey- the good and the bad.
  - Ritual: Write down what you want to let go of and burn it. Write what you are inviting into your life/journey.
- Closing Reading: #468 We need one another responsive reading



## **Third Meeting:**

*Spiritual growth is an individual affair that is best pursued in groups.—Henry Miller*

- Chalice Lighting
- Check in
- Discussion Topic: What we were looking for when we found the Fellowship; why we stayed
  - Why did you come to the Fellowship?
  - First impressions of the Fellowship
  - What has made you stay and join?

## From Set in Stone -- Victoria Stafford

In a cemetery, once, I found a soothing epitaph. The name of the deceased and dates had been scoured away by wind and rain, but there was a carving of a tree with roots and branches (a classic nineteenth century motif) and among them the words, "She attended well and faithfully to a few worthy things." At first this seemed to me a little meager, a little stingy on the part of her survivors, but I wrote it down and have thought about it since, and now I can't imagine a more

proud or satisfying legacy.

"She attended well and faithfully to a few worthy things."

Every day I stand in danger of being struck by lightning and having the obituary in the local paper for all the world to see, "She attended frantically and ineffectually to a great many unimportant, meaningless details." How do you want your obituary to read?

"He got all the dishes washed and dried before playing with his children in the evening."

"She balanced her checkbook with meticulous precision and never missed a day of work – missed a lot of sunsets, missed a lot of love, missed a lot of risk, missed a lot - but her money was in order."

"She answered all her calls, all her e-mail, all her voicemail, but along the way she forgot to answer the call to service and compassion, and forgiveness, first and foremost of herself."

"He gave and forgave sparingly, without radical intention, without passion or conviction."

"She could not, or would not hear the calling of her heart."

How will it read, how does it read, and if you had to name a few worthy things to which you attended well and faithfully, what, I wonder would they be?

- Discussion Topic: What do we want to explore; where will our journey take us
  - Writing: Where do you want your journey to go?
  - Discuss reactions
  - How can being part of the Fellowship help you in this?
  - Hopes and dreams for your experiences here
- Closing Reading: # 658 To Risk

