

# New Member Journey Group

## Details:

- 4 month group
- 90 minutes
- Tuesday 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:

- 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

**Reminder email:** Bring Spiritual Journey drawings to all of the classes



## **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:**

### **To Be of Use** by Marge Piercy

The people I love the best  
jump into work head first  
without dallying in the shallows  
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.  
They seem to become natives of that element,

the black sleek heads of seals  
bouncing like half submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,  
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,  
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,  
who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge  
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest  
and work in a row and pass the bags along,  
who stand in the line and haul in their places,  
who are not parlor generals and field deserters  
but move in a common rhythm  
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud.  
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.  
But the thing worth doing well done  
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.  
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,  
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums  
but you know they were made to be used.  
The pitcher cries for water to carry  
and a person for work that is real.

- 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?
- Closing Reading: #692

If here you have found freedom, take it with you into the world. If you have found comfort, go and share it with others. If you have dreamed dreams, help one another, that they may come true. If you have known love, give some back to a bruised and hurting world. Go in peace.  
(Lauralyn Bellamy)



## **Fourth Meeting:**

### **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?

- Chalice Lighting
- Check in
- 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