

UUCR Small Group Ministry Session Plan
February 2018: CELEBRATING THE GENERATIONS

It is good to be together – companionship is the heartbeat of our community. May your time of gathering be blessed! -Rev. Rebekah

CHALICE OR CANDLE LIGHTING

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OPENING WORDS (by Rev. Ella Boyer, adapted)

*As we create and share sacred space together, let us reflect upon what brings us here.
We have all come here for different reasons, from different decisions, faced different challenges and shared different love. And yet all of our differences have led us to this space, right here, right now. We are the children of God, the children of the earth, or fully grown adults here as a piece of the ongoing cycles of the universe, the children of the stars.
We all have different definitions and explanations to who or what and why we are.
Perhaps all are right. Our revelation is not sealed.
Despite all that is different, there is one thing that is certainly the same.
Somehow we are all right here, right now. We are growing and changing and discovering all here, all together, sharing the same sacred space we have shared for years, throughout generations. Constantly evolving. Constantly changing.
Let us continue. Let us change and fight together, let us adapt together, let us grow together.*

CHECK-IN

READINGS:

“Every generation laughs at the old fashions, but follows religiously the new.” ~Henry David Thoreau

“Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you.” ~Shannon L. Alder

“Those who lived before us, who struggled for justice and suffered injustice before us, have not melted into the dust, and have not disappeared. They are with us still. The lives they lived hold us steady. Their words remind us and call us back to ourselves. Their courage and love evoke our own. We, the living, carry them with us: we are their voices, their hands and their hearts.” ~Rev. Kathleen McTigue

“Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won, you earn it and win it in every generation.” ~Coretta Scott King

“Every book is a quotation; and every house is a quotation out of all forests, and mines, and stone quarries; and every man is a quotation from all his ancestors.” ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

“We must strive to become good ancestors.” ~Ralph Nader

“That which seems the height of absurdity in one generation often becomes the height of wisdom in another.” ~Adlai Stevenson

“The destiny of future generations depends on our action today.” ~Sunday Adelaja

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

QUESTIONS and REQUESTS (Please respond to any of the questions you feel moved by. It is not necessary to respond to all of them.)

- ❖ In celebrating the generations, how do we balance the comforts of tradition with easing stagnation? Evolving wisdom with stability?
- ❖ Where is the sacred for you in celebrating the generations?
- ❖ How does your daily life connect with your ancestors?
- ❖ How does your life express the legacy you will leave your progeny (familial and relational)? How are you striving to be a good ancestor?
- ❖ What community, family or personal story would you like to let go of?
- ❖ What is your story to tell?

SHARING (up to 6 to 8 minutes each without interruption, depending on the time available, with optional open discussion at the end after all have shared)

MOMENT OF SILENT GRATITUDE

LIKES (celebrations, gratitudes, appreciations for needs met) and WISHES (mournings, requests, acknowledgements of needs not met)

CHECK-OUT (a few words or phrases from each who wants to share)

CLOSING WORDS (by Rev. Barbara J. Pescan)

*Because of those who came before, we are;
in spite of their failings, we believe;
because of, and in spite of, the horizons of their vision,
we, too, dream.*

*Let us go remembering to praise,
to live in the moment, to love mightily,
to bow to the mystery.*

EXTINGUISH THE CHALICE OR CANDLE