



People come to church seeking spiritual growth, seeking to know themselves better, to grow into their understanding of the world and to ponder the age old questions of faith: how to live, what to believe, how to act, and what meanings we can glean from the mystery of life. A life of faith is also a life of service. As human beings, we seek to be of use and a congregation provides avenues through which we may serve. Members of our Soul Matters Small Groups offer each other support during life's difficult times and share the joys of life, as well.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we welcome you to this shared ministry.

Blessings,
Rev. Barbara McKusick Liscord

Rev. Barbara McKusick Liscord can be reached at minister@uucm.org or 603-673-1870 ext. 2.

3 Ways to Sign Up

- ◆ Signup sheet on Garden Door shelf
- ◆ Call Jamie Ferrier our Office & Faith Formation Administrator
Church office: (603) 673-1870
- ◆ Our Website: <http://uucm.org/ministries/small-group-ministry/>

If you have been meeting with a group, this is the time to sign up again or change to a new group! Some people find it meaningful to change groups yearly as a way to get to know different people.

New groups may form throughout the year



**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
in Milford**

20 Elm Street
Milford, NH 03055
603-673-1870

Soul Matters Small Group Ministry



*A real conversation
always contains an
invitation.*

~David Whyte

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Small Group Ministry offers an opportunity for spiritual growth, mutual care, and meaningful connections among members and friends of our congregation, using a clear and predictable group structure.

Through this process, ethical and spiritual concerns that impact our lives are given time for personal reflection, deep listening, and sharing. We exchange our vitality and wisdom, enhance our sense of communal purpose, and deepen our commitment to UUCM, our community, and our world.

"I believe we can change the world if we start listening to one another again. Simple, honest human conversation. Not mediation, negotiation, problem-solving, debate or public meetings. Simple, truthful conversation, where we each have a chance to speak, we each feel heard, and we each listen well."

—Margaret J. Wheatley,
*Turning to One Another:
Simple Conversations to
Restore Hope to the Future.*

WHAT IS SMALL GROUP MINISTRY?

Small Group Ministry is a group of 7–10 people who meet for a couple of hours usually twice a month to share personal life experiences and insights on monthly themes.

Facilitators of the groups are trained by and meet regularly with our minister, Rev. Barbara McKusick Liscord. Each group also takes on a one-time service project. Members of the group can also minister to each other as difficult life circumstances arise.

Questions? Contact Rev. Barbara Church Study: 673-1870 (ext. 2)
minister@uucm.org



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY GUIDELINES

- ◆ All members shall maintain full confidentiality; one may speak of one's own experiences and statements outside of the group, but not those of any other member of the group.
- ◆ Everyone is encouraged to contribute and each person's contribution is valued.
- ◆ Group members pledge to maintain a spirit of goodwill and openness to all other group members.
- ◆ Members will seek to speak from their own experience and refrain from judgments or analysis of others and from giving advice.
- ◆ If misunderstanding or discomfort should arise, members shall address it openly and work to resolve it within the group or seek the help of the facilitator or the minister in moving toward resolution.
- ◆ Each member will make a genuine effort to be present at all meetings, arrive and leave on time, and participate fully in conversations and activities of the group.
- ◆ Each group will include an empty chair to symbolize those not reached who need us and the expectation of helping start a new group as small group ministry grows at UUCM.
- ◆ The group will provide some direct service to the congregational community during the life of the group.