

Welcome to  
Small  
Group  
Ministry



at the  
Unitarian Universalist  
Community Church  
Augusta, Maine

UUCC website at  
<https://www.augustauu.org/>

**Welcome**  
to the Unitarian Universalist  
Community Church of Augusta. We  
invite you to consider Small Group  
Ministry (SGM).

**What members are saying:**

- \* "Small Group Ministry is the spiritual development group that helps me build personal relationships."
- \* "SGM has helped me to be excited about Sunday and going to church."
- \* "Through SGM, we can get to know people whom we otherwise may not have."
- \* "It's fun!"

If you arrived at UUCC seeking deeper connections with people and greater meaning and purpose in the busyness of your life, Small Group Ministry may be just what you are looking for.

*Small Group Ministry encourages people to explore their faith and share their spiritual journeys with each other. There may be a group that is awaiting your arrival!*

**Information about groups:**

"Small Group" is a gathering of 8-10 individuals, sometimes selected at random, sometimes selected for a specific interest. Groups of this size provide an opportunity to relate on a deeper level.

*Small Group Ministry participants* gather for two hours once or twice a month at time and place designated by the group members, such as a home or the church, electronically or "virtually" (in person and electronically).

You are welcome to consider an Existing group, a Newly Formed group, or a Time-Limited group

*The SGM session format includes:*

- \*opening reading and chalice lighting;
- \*check-in, sharing
- \*reflection on a topic such as life issues, social justice, and our own religious journeys;
- \*check-out for feedback
- \*a closing reading and extinguishing the chalice.

*Group leaders are the contact with the SGM Committee and meetings are facilitated by group members. SGM groups together, under the direction of the SGM Committee, lead a Sunday Morning service annually. Groups may participate in various other events within the church community.*

## **Bonding and Going Deeper**

UUCC was one of the first congregations to start Small Group Ministry in 1999. SGM focuses on:

--Bonding or intimacy, evident through worship and caring for each other.

--Worship is the shared experience at the heart of our congregation. Small Group Ministry offers the opportunity to deepen that experience.

--Going Deeper, stepping onto the spiritual path toward knowing one's self better, growing in understanding of the world and pondering questions of faith.

## **Join Small Group Ministry!**

Small Group Ministry is part of the UUCC community through:

--Two *Covenants* that guide group participation. One is developed by the group and describes the expectations that members have of one another. The other is between the group and the larger church community. Group covenants are consistent with the UUCC covenant and UU values.

-- "*Ministry*" as the process or act of caring or being present with another. This relates to the spiritual as well as the physical and emotional well-being of the group participants. Small Group Ministry is lay-led small groups that deepen and expand the ministry of the congregation.

--*Service* as a grateful response to life's blessings. Small Group Ministry is an opportunity to serve our congregation and the wider community through projects large and small.

## **SGM at UUCC**

For more information,

- contact the SGM Co-Chairs, Linda Findlay at [linda.findlay@gmail.com](mailto:linda.findlay@gmail.com) 207-377-8028 or Helen Zidowecki [hzmre@hzmre.com](mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com) 207-582-5308.

- Leave a message at the Church Office (622-3232 or website [info@augustauu.org](mailto:info@augustauu.org) or in the E-Blast notation (electronic publication).

- or speak with the minister.

Complete a SGM Application. This includes description of ways to be part of the community.

Possibly participate in a "Come, Join Us" or similar session or discussion.

UU Small Group Network at [www.smallgroupministry.net](http://www.smallgroupministry.net). includes resources from UU congregations, ministers and individuals. UUCC has been a founding and continuing donor of the Network.

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