

Small Group Ministry Policy Document

Approved by Facilitators and the SGM Steering committee October 2018

Small Group Ministry (SGM) is a vibrant part of the Unitarian Society of New Haven and the role of the SGM Steering Committee is to offer guidance and support to existing groups and to help form new ones. All SGM's are spiritually focused and have a commitment to covenant.

Each SGM will ideally have a facilitator and co-facilitator. When a group reaches capacity (as determined by facilitators), including those newly signed up, the group splits. The co-facilitator (or other experienced, designated leader) becomes the facilitator of the new group. When requested, the SGM Steering Committee will assist in dividing a group.

Groups will maintain an "open chair" for new members throughout the semester. New members will be referred to SGM's by the Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE) prior to attending their first session. Groups may "opt out" of the open chair practice at their own discretion, but must inform the Steering Committee and DLRE.

Before the fall and spring enrollment periods, Facilitators may signup any continuing member(s).

After the end of the first enrollment session, all others may sign up by email or phone to the DLRE. (203.288.1807 ext. 203 or family@usnh.org.)

While most groups start and stop according to the semester calendar, groups may at their own discretion continue to meet throughout the year.

Any group that doesn't wish to follow this format may continue to meet but will not be considered a SGM, and may not be involved in any SGM activity, including training and recruiting of new members/facilitators.

Membership in USNH is not required for participation in SGM. Prior participation in SGM is recommended for facilitating.

Suggestions for new groups are always welcome and may be made at any time to the Director of Lifespan Religious Education and/or the SGM Steering Committee.