



Small Group Ministry Institute 2009

August 16 – August 21, 2009

The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers, Inc.

The Highlands, North Carolina

The 2009 Institute

incorporates the varied ways that Small Group Ministry/Covenant Groups enhance our congregations and Unitarian Universalism. There will be general information and in depth sessions around special focuses (example: facilitation or coordination). We will be including ever-emerging resources and Small Group Ministry developments.

Individuals and teams from congregations of all sizes learn about and practice Small Group Ministry. Sessions are designed for new and experienced program organizers, facilitators, ministers and congregational leaders. The week will include presentations, hands-on workshops, daily small group ministry experiences, sharing, networking, informal chats, worship.

We need input from conference participants around emerging trends and uses of Small Group Ministry. We will have opportunities for participants to present from their own experiences. This distinguishes an Institute from a conference!

AND there will be several hours each day to enjoy what The Mountain has to offer! There are trails on The Mountain and additional trails and other side trips nearby. Visit <http://www.mountaincenters.org/>

Come yourself—and *bring a group from your congregation!* Participants will receive a packet of resources. Bringing a team from a congregation allows for fuller participation in all the conference has to offer as well as opportunity to develop a team approach when you return home.

- ❑ **Explore the powerful impact that Small Group Ministry is having in congregations.**
- ❑ **Build the skills of new facilitators and enhance skills in problem resolution.**
- ❑ **Create and select effective sessions, including the use of art, music, and movement.**
- ❑ **Learn how to lead your church's small group ministry program**
- ❑ **Take home a vision and plan to explore, begin, enhance or expand Small Group Ministry.**

Institute Leaders: *Rev. Helen Zidowecki* (Augusta, ME); *Susan Hollister* (Devon, PA); *Diana Dorroh* (Baton Rouge, LA); *Steve Becker* (Seattle, WA)

Information on previous Institutes is available at www.smallgroupministry.net/ under Events.

Cost: The Mountain, shared occupancy, and Program Fee: \$550, with \$25 discount for registration before July 1, and \$25 discount for UU Small Group Ministry Network members.

To Register, visit www.mountaincenters.org or Call (828) 526-5838

Sponsored by the **UU Small Group Ministry Network**, see www.smallgroupministry.net
For questions about conference content, contact Rev. Helen Zidowecki at hzmre@hzmre.com

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Steve Becker has been involved with small group ministry since 2003 in the Seattle, Washington area, where he has offered facilitator training, served as coordinator, and has facilitated a group for persons with special needs. His special interest is developing topics for covenant groups. He is the Vice-President for the Small Group Ministry Network Board of Directors. Steve lives in Seattle, WA.

Diana Dorroh, Program Director, and Rev. Steve Crump have led the Baton Rouge program since its beginning in 1999. That program now has 220 participants. She participated in several workshops organized by Rev. Bob Hill, when he was District Executive of the Southwest District. She currently serves as volunteer staff at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge. Diana is President of the UU Small Group Ministry Network and manages the Covenant Group News. She is a co-author of the *Facilitator Training Manual*.

Susan Hollister has been a Unitarian Universalist since 1980 and is a member of Main Line Unitarian Church in Devon, PA. She helped launch Small Group Ministry at MLUC and is past coordinator of the Program. She co-facilitates a group, assists the current coordinators, trains facilitators, and serves on the session writing team. Susan promotes small group ministry as an ideal way for newcomers to meet people and make connections. Susan is the Treasurer for the Small Group Ministry Network Board. She is co-author of the *Facilitator Training and Development Manual*.

Rev. Helen Zidowecki has been involved with Small Group Ministry for over 10 years. She is a member of the Augusta, ME, congregation, where she is a facilitator and on the Topics Committee. Her special interest is Small Group Ministry in Lifespan Faith Development, and smaller congregations. She was the Program Consultant, Northeast District, until July 2007. She leads workshops and writes materials on Small Group Ministry. She is secretary for the Small Group Ministry Network and co manages the UUSGM website and Covenant Group Ministry list serve/discussion group.

Other leaders may be added. Conference participants will be involved in the facilitation of the Small Group Ministry Sessions throughout the week, and in seminar presentations from their own experience.