

SGM QUARTERLY

VOL 7 NO 1

FALL 2010

A publication of the UU Small Group Ministry Network

ISSN 1945-2683

News from the Network



In this issue:

Michael Durall.....	2
Minister's Page.....	3
New Board Members.....	4
From our members.....	6
Conference Notations.....	8
Publications.....	9
Events and Resources.....	10
President's Report.....	11

Our Mission:
"To help create healthy
congregations and a vital
Unitarian Universalist movement
by promoting and supporting
Small Group Ministry."

NOW AVAILABLE – Two New Publications from the Network!

Small Group Ministry: Celebrating Congregations and Spiritual Journeys: 101 Session Plans for Small Group Ministry Programs are now available for mail order. Download order forms from our website.

Welcome New Board Members!

We're delighted to welcome Linda Serra, Gil Hanson, Grace Hirsh, Jan Carlsson-Bull, and Mike MacLaury, who were elected to the Network Board of Directors in June 2010. Read about our newest Board members on page two. We look forward to an exciting year!

Upcoming Training Workshops

Small Group Ministry training workshops will be given in Northern New England, Southwest, and Metro New York Districts this fall. See inside for details and locations. If you'd like to arrange an event for your congregation, cluster, or district, the Network would be happy to help. Contact us at office@smallgroupministry.net.

Thank you, Steve Becker, Anne Haynes, and Christine Trigeiro!

The members of the UU SGM Network Board of Directors would like to express their appreciation and gratitude to Board President Steve Becker and Members-At-Large Anne Haynes and Christine Trigeiro, who completed their terms in June 2010. We're delighted that all three will maintain their association with the Board: Steve, as Acting Vice President, Anne on Nominating Committee, and Christine on Membership Committee.

General Assembly 2010, Minneapolis, MN

Thank you to Rev. Helen Zidowecki, Community Church of Augusta, ME, Rev. Peter Friedrichs and Joyce McKee, UU Church of Delaware County, Media, PA, and Rev. Peg Morgan and Steve Becker, Westside UU Congregation, Seattle, WA, for presenting the Network's highly popular GA workshop, *Enhancing, Revitalizing, Restarting Your Small Group Ministry*.

E-Quarterly and Membership Renewal

If "Time to Renew" appears on your address label, your Network membership may have expired. Renew online or download a renewal form from our website. Check the electronic Quarterly option if you'd like to forward the journal to group leaders.

Online Resources from the SGM Network

The Network website, www.smallgroupministry.net, contains information about upcoming events, articles by leaders in the small group ministry movement, an extensive selection of session plans, and complete archives of *Covenant Group News* and the *SGM Quarterly* journal.

Small Group Ministry: A Requirement for Church Membership?

By Michael Durall

Who We Are:

The UU Small Group Ministry Network is a non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. We provide support to small group ministry and related shared ministry models in UU congregations through developing new resources, networking, and training opportunities.

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The SGM Quarterly is published four times a year and supported by donations and memberships. Archives are available on the SGM website.

Small Group Ministry is part of congregations with various denominational affiliations. Believe it or not, current church literature reflects a growing number of congregations in which belonging to a small group is expected of all members. This is not a, “You have to” deal, but rather a, “You’re fortunate to” situation.

In any congregation, the maximum number of people who will join a so-called “groupy group,” involving a check-in period and discussion, is about 40 percent. Most people don’t join a church looking for that experience. In such churches, the quality of small groups also varies widely.

Churches that expect all members to belong to a small group view the subject from a very different perspective. It’s about building a deeper spiritual life.

Most often, there are three levels of small group ministry. The first is for newcomers, and focuses on getting to know the church, the faith, and one’s fellow congregants. This is a powerful method that allows people who are new to make friends, a key factor in whether they will remain in the church.

The second level is growing deeper in the faith, which involves further reading, and sometimes writing regular summaries of your faith journey. The third level is outreach and service. These three levels are not mutually exclusive. For example, all are encouraged to help those who are less fortunate.

The big difference in the three-level method is that group leaders have a concentrated focus, and are highly trained to be effective in their roles. An added bonus is that members always know what the next step in the journey will be.

Regardless of the type of small group ministry your congregation chooses, a cardinal rule is that no group should ever become closed. A closed group is a clear signal that the congregation consists of insiders and outsiders, exactly the opposite of the community we wish to build.

Michael Durall is parish consultant and the author of five books about congregational life. Contact information can be found on his “all church, all the time” blog, www.TenMinutesOrLess.blogspot.com

Small Groups, Deep Connections.

MINISTER'S PAGE

Trying to Help

By Reverend Virginia Jarocha-Ernst

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County, Lincroft, New Jersey

One of the best reasons for forming small groups is the ministry that can occur in these groups. The structures we accept like check-in, deep listening without cross talk, and confidentiality allow for a ministry of mutuality. The group then becomes an interesting container for our efforts to help one another.

I, like so many, have been taught that helping should be selfless and not about me. And this is true, up to a point. It is impossible for me not to be me, with my own set of anxieties, needs, and hurts, even when I am trying to help. But, selfless or selfish, helping is important anyway. So, in congregational life, I encourage helping that makes both parties stronger, healthier and brings all into more meaningful relationship.

We each come to this act with feelings and expectations of our own. To be in need of help can be difficult and even shameful. Some of us have a hard time asking for help. And helpers must be aware of their own need to rescue, a certain distancing from our own human fragility which gives us power over another for a brief moment in time.

So helping is risky business. But this risk transforms human hearts and brings us that much closer to the beloved community we are hoping for. Healthy helping breaks down the barriers between us. It chips away at our defenses and reminds us we are alive and vulnerable, too. Healthy helping functions to strengthen the web of community.

In order to help, we have to be honest about our limits. It doesn't really help to be a sponge, taking on every problem someone has as our own. We all have boundaries, and it does not serve us well – our small groups, our congregations, or ourselves – to deny them. When we are honest about our limitations, saying, "This, I can do, and this, I cannot do", it levels the playing field, reminding us all that we are but temporarily 'abled.' We are human, fragile, and hurtable, as well. We cannot do everything, but perhaps we can do something to help someone for today.

How to help each other is an important conversation to have within your covenant groups. As we build relationships, honest communication about what can help us when we are in need is essential to creating a safe container for everyone in the group. Questions to consider are: When have you received help and when have you given help? What was each experience like for you? Was there an expectation of a favor in return? How were you changed?

An even exchange of services is not what I mean by mutuality. Rather, mutual helping changes us if we step out of our comfort zone and are open to transformation. There is something wildly generous about help that can be expanded and multiplied when sent outward rather than simply returned. Give your help away without expectation of return. This help is a gift, a service, a ministry we participate in for ourselves and for the world.

Our new board members

Gil Hanson is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Stony Brook on Long Island, New York. Gil initiated UUFSB's Small Group Ministry program, leading the implementation team and training facilitators. Sharing Circles began in March 2010 with five groups and 40 participants.

Grace Hirsh is a member of Manatee Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Bradenton, Florida. After attending the Network-sponsored Small Group Ministry Institute in 2008, Grace helped implement Chalice Circles at MUUF, where she facilitates a group and serves on the SGM Steering Committee.

Rev. Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull is Interim Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills in Kingston, New York. She introduced small group ministry at First Parish Unitarian Universalist in Cohasset, Massachusetts, where she was Minister for six years.

Michael MacLaury is a member of First Unitarian Society of Schenectady in New York. He was part of the Small Group Ministry implementation team at FUSC, creating and organizing more than 10 groups. Mike has been a facilitator for 10 years and is on the Covenant Circle Steering Community.

Linda Serra is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, Georgia. She served as a group facilitator when small group ministry was launched there in 2006, and now coordinates the UUCA Covenant Group Program as her primary responsibility as Lay Minister.

Program Notes

Installation of Covenant Group Leadership Team

Eno River UU Fellowship, Durham, North Carolina

This ceremony to honor Small Group Ministry/Covenant Group program coordinators can be adapted for use at the beginning of the congregational year.

Minister: Our Covenant Group program is a powerful ministry in our congregational life. Leadership of this program is demanding and rich with possibility.

Do you who are hereby named the Covenant Group Leadership Team accept without reservation the charge of this congregation, to work together to assure the continued success and growth of the Covenant Group Ministry, to strive for clarity in purpose and form, to maintain the structure of the program in order to best serve those who would join covenant groups and chalice circles and the congregation as a whole?

Team: We do. As the team that supports the Covenant Group Ministry, we further covenant to encourage people in their spiritual growth, help them develop relationships of substance and depth, and meet their needs to worship, to serve, and to be in community. We are grateful to this congregation for this opportunity to be of service in this way.

Minister: And do you, members of the congregation, covenant to support this Leadership Team, understanding that they will work with our professional clergy to assure the well-being of the program and this congregation, and that if you choose to participate in a covenant group or chalice circle that you will respect and honor the work of this Team, supporting them as they support you?

Members: We do. We are grateful that you, the Covenant Group Leadership Team, will be the lay leaders of this ministry.

All: Together we weave the tapestry of community we call love, one ministry at a time, all contributing to all.

Minister: We bless this ministry. May our minds, hearts and spirits grow deep and rich as we serve and are served. So may it be and amen.

Chalice Circles Provide a Connection for Members and Guests

*By Sally Hattig, First Unitarian Universalist
Congregation, Ann Arbor, Michigan*

Chalice Circles at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan (UUAA) continue to grow, change, and develop. It is an integral part of our Small Group Ministry. Our Congregation currently has 578 members (ranked 37 in membership) and includes 453 households. Chalice Circles help the larger congregation become smaller and enable participants to connect with a group of people, while developing a deeper spiritual meaning to their lives. It is a place for people looking for fellowship and spiritual growth. By joining a circle, group members find and build community; experience mutual commitment to shared goals; encounter something sacred in themselves and others; enhance listening skills; and learn about themselves by seeing their life in the context of others' experiences.

The program started with a study group in 2006-2007, and began the first full year of sessions in Fall, 2007. The primary goal of Chalice Circles is to engage the hearts and minds of the participants. We strive to provide a safe community for individuals to explore their beliefs and attitudes and share their personal experiences without risk of judgment. Chalice Circles meet two hours twice each month from October through May, for a total of fourteen sessions. Each group has two specially trained co-facilitators who ably lead the meetings.

This year, participation in the program has increased from 7 to 11 total circles (+57%), from 14 to 22 trained facilitators (+57%), and participants from 54 to 90 (+66%). We also offer One-Time Chalice Circles for those who otherwise cannot attend a full schedule of sessions. The sessions use the same meeting format with two co-facilitators and topics used previously in the Chalice Circle program. The interest and participation in these sessions has rapidly increased and we plan to continue providing them throughout the year.

As the program continues to develop and membership increases, several changes have been implemented. In an effort to involve more lay leaders in the program, a Leadership Council and Steering Committee were implemented. The Leadership Council consists of the supporting minister, and two lay leaders. They meet monthly to coordinate the overall program. The Steering Committee includes the supporting minister, two Leadership Council co-chairs, and several facilitators and group participants. It helps with the coordination and administration of the program. Next year, committee members will assume specific administrative responsibilities related to marketing, registration, service projects, publicity, facilitator training, assessment, and curriculum development.

A Curriculum Writing Team has been in place since the program started. It includes facilitators and group participants who work together to provide the topic session content for the next year. The feedback received from current participants and facilitators is used to review and revise the core topics, identify new topics and finalize the schedule.

Chalice Circles connect to the congregation by completing a mandatory service project. They promote stewardship of the grounds, develop a deeper sense of generosity and enhance the communal spirit of the Chalice Circle experience. Some of the projects completed this past year were helping with the Senior Luncheon, spring clean up of the Memorial Garden, and helping with the annual Silent Auction.

We are very excited about the opportunities Chalice Circles provide for our congregants and guests. As one participant stated, "I feel spiritually nourished by listening deeply to the insights of others, and by considering my own experiences and truths. I feel invigorated by the diversity of perspectives expressed."

Sally Hattig is currently a member of the Leadership Council and has served as a Facilitator and member of the Steering Committee

From Our Members.....

The following participant's guide is used by the Small Group Ministry program at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene, Oregon, for their groups' first meetings. It serves as a precursor to the groups developing their own covenants.

Small Group Ministry Covenant of Right Relationship

Group Agreements and Guidelines to Meet Our Needs and Support Our Values

Within the group

Respect, Consideration, and Support

- Begin and end on time.
- Have a strong commitment to attend every session.
- Let the facilitator know when you will not attend.
- Practice respectful listening and sharing of "air time" by listening to each person's check in and sharing of the topic without interruption or cross talk (silent empathy).
- The facilitator and group members will call the group back to the covenant when needed.
- Respect the right to pass. A person may choose to talk later, or to sit/share in silence.

Empathy and Understanding

- Speak from personal experience and use "I" statements.
- Refrain from giving advice or trying to fix problems (yours or someone else's).

Trust and Safety

- Confidentiality: keep what is shared in the group within the group. The facilitator is considered to be a "mandatory reporter" to appropriate authorities for suspected abuse or neglect of vulnerable people, or other risks for people's safety.
- Follow the meeting format. It provides a safe and predictable environment.

Learning and Contribution

- Remember we are all learners and teachers.

From the group to the church

Respect, Consideration, and Support

- Affirm and promote the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the UUCE mission statement.
- Do a service project for the church or the larger community.

From the church to the group

Nurturance and Support

- Provide the organizational and logistical support to maintain the Small Group Ministry program.

Optional Meeting Strategies

- Use a "talking stick or object" to indicate who is talking and when the person is finished.
- Indicate when one is done talking with a gesture or a phrase such as "I am finished".
- For time management consider having a clock visible to the person speaking for self-monitoring of time, or have a timekeeper or use a timer to indicate when the allotted time for a person's sharing is reached.
- Save time for response and dialog after all have shared.

Revised by the Small Group Ministry Steering Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene, Oregon: Rev. Stephen A. Ames, Brian Lewis, Dick Loescher, Leora White 9/23/09

Beyond the Topics: Covenant Groups in Service

*Cathy Agrella, Covenant Group Coordinator,
UU Church of Asheville, North Carolina*

The Covenant Group program at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville, North Carolina is in its sixth year, and we had ten groups in 2009-10. In our initial years, one of the things with which we struggled was the service or outreach commitment that was expected. People had been known to say, "I am already involved in social justice work, I don't need to do anything with yet another group." Or someone would comment, "I am here for my own spiritual growth and for fellowship with my circle. If you are talking about outreach, I have 'been there, done that.' I don't want to use precious "topic time" figuring out whether to work coffee hour together or sponsor a child for Holiday Giving." One or two of our groups were willing enough to offer assistance, but complained that their age or physical condition didn't allow them to do much more than take up a collection for some worthy cause; that seemed like a poor substitute for real outreach.

Over time, this reluctance has been replaced by group pride and enthusiasm for the service piece of covenant group membership. The change happened gradually. In facilitator meetings, we kept noting that service was part of the covenant folks were signing on to. (Call it a bit of "tough love" by the coordinators!) Also, we kept the requirement small. We asked groups to come up with two projects – one reaching into the larger church, and one reaching into the larger community. We emphasized that these service times needn't overwhelm group members—nothing long-term, nothing that required huge amounts of effort or planning. It could be something very simple that required only an hour or two of time.

When groups finally accepted the idea of service, they got creative. The group that had a lot of elderly members with limited physical abilities decided to write get-well or support cards to members of the congregation facing illness or hard times. They did this sitting together at a table for a few minutes before every meeting. They also took up a collection and purchased

flowers and shrubs for a nursing center. Several of the more active group members did the planting and when it was done, everyone came out to tour the landscaping and visit with residents.

Other groups volunteered to help with CROP Walk registration, Habitat for Humanity luncheons, or distribute Teddy Bears collected during the holidays. Our all-women covenant group did the set-up and serving for the annual Covenant Group potluck, when the covenant groups come together under one roof. Our family-centered group for parents collected vitamins for the children of Haiti and involved their own offspring in that project.

Eventually, things started to flow and even expand. One of our covenant groups, Tides of Change, took service to the next level and truly became a model for the rest of us. This group consists of young adults. Under the leadership of facilitator Laura Hansen and group member Dan Clere, they applied for (and expect to soon receive) a FAITH certification from the North Carolina Wildlife Federation for our church campus. FAITH stands for "Fellowship Actions Impacting the Habitat", and the credential recognizes in layman's terms what UU's know to be an exercise in our seventh principle. UUC-Asheville will be only the second church in Asheville to have achieved this recognition. The covenant group realized that our church grounds were once part of a forest. By providing for wildlife appropriate to our urban location (songbirds, small mammals, pollinating insects) they helped our church make its built environment more sustainable and beneficial to the "interconnected web." They built birdhouses; they planted native species in our gardens, and much more. This project definitely took more than a single day of action!

All in all, it turned out to be great for group members to see and work with each other outside the regular sessions where deep sharing occurred over topics. Groups rose to the challenge of finding things that reflected the interests of the members and worked with the skills and abilities of the participants.

Conference Notations

The SGM Network at General Assembly 2010, Minneapolis, Minnesota

At our workshop, *Enhancing, Revitalizing, Restarting Your Small Group Ministry*, a capacity audience learned successful strategies from two congregations that had revamped their programs. A record number of SGM enthusiasts stopped by the Network booth in the Exhibit Hall to talk, ask questions, and purchase resources. Seven congregations became members of the Network during GA! A new SGM Discussion hour enabled us to have in-depth consultations with congregations either starting or expanding their covenant group programs. Covenant Group members from all over the U.S. helped staff the booth. We encourage each of you to attend GA 2011 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Volunteer at the booth, come to the workshop, and connect with hundreds of other UUs involved in Covenant Group Ministry.

Summer SGM Institute 2010, Camp de Benneville Pines, Angelus Oaks, California

Twenty-six people from thirteen congregations gathered during the week before Labor Day for an intense small group ministry experience. The church delegations varied in size from 1 to 4. Rev. Helen Zidowecki, Diana Dorroh, and Christine Trigeiro led the way, but we all learned from each other and explored the boundaries of the body of knowledge of small group ministry. Being in the beautiful mountains and nestled among the pine trees certainly enhanced our learning and exchange of ideas.

We started with the basic elements and structure that make for small group ministry program success, explored the nature of groups and levels of sharing, then focused on facilitator identification, recruitment, training, development and support. Next we addressed how to start or restart a program, the writing and critiquing of session plans, service projects, growth through small group ministry and evaluating a program. We explored two special topics in depth: the appropriate response to sharing, both verbal and non-verbal, and creating and supporting multi-generational groups. A covenant group experience was a critical and favorite part of the Institute and gave participants a model of intimacy and ultimacy. Each congregation went home with a plan regarding small group ministry in their own setting.

Look for participant reactions in the next two issues of Covenant Group News. Some preliminary comments from the written evaluations are:

“I have exciting new ideas and impetus for my new program.”

“I met amazing people and learned so much from them. The topics gave me a lot to think about. I hope other people from my congregation can come next time.”

“It has been extremely helpful to see and hear how other churches conduct their Small Group Ministry.”

Watch for the announcement of the next Summer Small Group Ministry Institute!

UU SGM Network Publications

Order forms available from <http://www.smallgroupministry.net>

NEW! *Spiritual Journeys: 101 Session Plans for Small Group Ministry Programs*

A wide range of original, ready-to-use sessions covering Spiritual Journeying, Personal Beliefs and Values, Spiritual Challenges, Holidays, and more. Themes are drawn from art, literature, UU liturgy and hymnals, current events, and religious scriptures.

Network Members: \$20 plus \$5 shipping Non-members: \$30 plus \$5 shipping

NEW! *Small Group Ministry 2010: Celebrating Congregations*

Celebrating the work of over 100 congregations that have contributed to the UU Small Group Ministry movement since 2004. Profiles of contributing congregations relate how their programs started and their unique challenges and success stories.

Network Members: \$15 plus \$5 shipping Non-members: \$25 plus \$5 shipping

ALSO AVAILABLE

See our website for details

Implementing Small Group Ministry: For Starting, Restarting and Enhancing a Program.

Considerations for Small Group Ministry program development and administration.

Ten Years of Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry. A collection of articles tracing the Small Group Ministry movement from 1998 to the present.

Facilitator Training and Development Manual. A guide for training and support plus a handbook for group leaders and facilitators.

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry. A collection of 50+ articles from 5 years of Network publications.

Small Group Ministry for Youth. Twenty-five sessions for middle and high school youth.

In addition to being printed exclusively on white paper, which makes it easier to copy and is a cost-savings for the Network, the newsletter is now printed on eco-friendly, recycled paper.

Events and Resources

Small Group Ministry Facilitator Trainings with Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy

September 18, 2010, Unitarian Church of Montpelier, VT

September 25, 2010, Keene UU Church, Keene, NH

October 2, 2010, North Parish of North Andover UU, Methuen, MA

Topics include the power and purpose of Small Group Ministry; the essential components of a strong program; developing shared leadership within a small group; dealing with group challenges, and developing your confidence as a facilitator. There will be two actual group experiences focused on topics of concern for facilitators. For more information and a registration form, contact Rev. Kennedy at mellenken@aol.com or 802-453-5469.

Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Convocation

October 7-10, 2010, Espousal Center, Waltham, Massachusetts

The Small Group Ministry Network will present *Capturing an Historic Trend: Decade of Small Group Ministry/Covenant Groups*. The workshop explores how Small Group Ministry has changed the way congregations interact and brought about transformation within Unitarian Universalism since the late 1990s. To register, see the Partners in Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage site at <http://partnersinuuhistoryandheritage.org>.

Northern New England District Small Group Ministry Workshops

Saturday, October 2, 2010 Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco and Biddeford, Saco, ME

Saturday, October 16, 2010 Location TBD

Topics include factors for Small Group Ministry success; promoting participation; developing and maintaining leadership; facilitator training and group dynamics; service projects; starting, restarting, and rejuvenating programs; and small group ministry resources. Further information and registration materials are available on the district website, <http://www.nned.uua.org>.

Southwest District Leadership Training, November 12 - 14, 2010

Small Group Ministry: Starting, Restarting, or Enhancing Your Program

Workshop leaders are Rev. Helen Zidowecki, from Augusta, ME, and Rev. Steve Crump and Diana Dorroh, from Baton Rouge, LA. Topics include congregational benefits; program support structure; leadership roles and resources; facilitator selection, training and support; group experience enhancement; multi-generational covenant groups; session selection and critique; and program assessment. For more information, see Event Announcements, <http://www.smallgroupministry.net/events.html>.

Small Group Ministry Facilitator Training, November 13, 2010

UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, New York

Hosted by the UU District of Metro New York. Workshop leaders are Peter Bowden, UU Growth Consultant and SGM Network co-founder, and Rev. Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull, Interim Minister at UU Congregation of the Catskills and Board member of the SGM Network. Designed for congregations launching or re-launching an intentional congregation-wide small group ministry. For flyer and registration information, go to http://uumetrony.org/events/SGM_Workshop_2010.pdf Direct questions about content to Peter at peter@uuplanet.com.

Small Group Ministry Network

President's Report

June, 2010

Our Board of Directors has had a busy year building on the strategic foundation we have laid over the last three years. Significant events include:

1. Following our Annual Meeting last year in Salt Lake City, the BOD held its Annual Retreat at the Marriott. The Board established priorities for the coming year, defined as:
 - a. expanding BOD membership (achieved),
 - b. focus this year on membership development (Phase II of Strategic Plan) (achieved),
 - c. reduced emphasis on income after Phase I successes (achieved), and
 - d. renewing our commitment to our District Initiative; for example, Steve suggested the use of Congregational Resource Teams in each district to provide support to local congregations (in process).
2. Christine Trigeiro joined our Board from California.
3. The Network held a successful workshop at The Mountain in NC and plans to hold its next training at Camp de Benneville Pines in CA in August.
4. For the September, 2009 *SGM Quarterly*, Steve initiated a new column called *Connections* to focus on the lighter side of Small Group Ministry, to run in each edition.
5. In October, the Board wrote a workshop proposal to UUA for GA 2010 about *Energizing Your Small Group Ministry Program*, which was accepted and is being offered as a panel presentation at Minneapolis.
6. In the spring the Board completed a new book, *Spiritual Journeys: 101 Topics for Small Group Ministry*, for publication through the Network.
7. In April, Steve requested the Nominating Committee to suggest recipients for awards for outstanding service. With the Board's approval, Steve created the President's Award for Outstanding Service.
8. Five candidates have agreed to accept nomination to our Board for next year.
9. The Board changed the bylaws to allow for the Treasurer to serve up to 5 years.
10. The Board approved a new logo.
11. Helen is creating a new publication, *Small Group Ministry 2010: Celebrating Congregations*, for publication this summer.
12. Beth's hours were increased to allow for solicitation of articles.
13. Membership procedures have been revamped and we have several new members this year.

Steve Becker, President

It's true, membership has it's privileges!

As a member of the SGM Network you:

Get the current issue of the *Quarterly* before it's on the website, provide financial support for the SGM movement, receive discounts on publications and Network-sponsored events, and have a voice and a vote at our annual meeting at GA.

Name

Address

Congregation

District

Program Coordinator

Phone

E-mail

I would like to receive the newsletter electronically; YES NO

Congregational Membership (\$100 year)

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Download the form online at www.smallgroupministry.net

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4303 Swarthmore Road
Durham, NC 27707**