

Growing Your Covenant Group Program

Tips on how to grow Covenant Group/Chalice Circle programs in UU congregations:

1. Post a link to a couple of sessions on the congregation's website so folks can see how a meeting works.
2. Be clear that the groups are about sharing personal and life experiences. They aren't classes or debates. See Theodore Parker UUs description under "*What are the goal of UU congregations?*" <http://www.tparkerchurch.org/small-groups/>
3. Have Covenant Group members give a brief testimonial about their CG experience during a Sunday worship service. (Male and female.)
4. Have a sign-up table during Coffee Hour to coincide with the testimonials.
5. Offer a short "try it out" CC session before or after a Sunday service.
6. Have a required 20-minute orientation session for all those new to CG/CCs. Include a listening exercise.
7. Highlight that service to the congregation and community is part of the CC program, part of the group covenant, and a way to connect while working together. There is a list of examples on page 32 of the SGMN *Facilitator Training Manual*. (Available for sale from the UU Small Group Network webpage)
8. Consider adding "Connections & Responses" (before Likes & Wishes) to the session format, a time when group members can respond to what others have shared.

-Taken from the Small Group Ministry Network Journal, Summer 2018