

UCiM: Small Group Ministry Gathering

Preamble -> Strategy

UCiM Council Meeting: 08 October 2008

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Preamble

The reason why we started a Small Group Ministry Gathering ...

For some of us, we have experienced that UCiM can be a cold place to come and worship. For others, we have experienced the warmth that comes from small group opportunities, but have not necessarily experienced that recently at UCiM. Whether as newcomers or people who have worshiped here for a long time we acknowledge the reality that without being a place that is welcoming, it is appropriate for people to consider an alternative church home.

We acknowledge that in this tension there is a possibility for change and hope. By creating opportunities for people to come together in small groups it would help foster closer connections between members and lead to a greater sense of closeness whereby members could get to know each other better in a more intimate setting than can be afforded at a regular church service.

The end result of having Small Groups at UCiM ...

It is our opinion that the introduction of Small Groups is going to be critical to not only the growth but to the retention of membership going forward.

Purpose

The purpose of Small Group Ministry at The United Church in Meadowood is to provide a means whereby members of our congregation can meet around areas of mutual interest in an atmosphere of camaraderie that affords us the opportunity to form and nurture relationships, to explore and strengthen our faith, and to grow and develop spiritually so that discipleship within our church family as well as in the broader community is facilitated.

Goals

- To live out being a Christian community
- To explore what it means to be a Christian community: internally & externally – corporately & individually
- To hear others' stories
- To be energised
- To feel safe/comfortable to be challenged
- To intentionally continue to explore our expectations

Strategy: SGM Team

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| 1. Receive Approval from Council | 9. Discern Training Requirement/Duration |
| 2. Discern/Gauge Leadership Team to Implement Next phase of SGM | 10. Identify potential leaders |
| 3. Assess what is currently in place/occurring | 11. Do the ASK for Leadership |
| 4. Begin to gauge interest/needs of congregation | 12. Report Back to Council prior to implementation of training |
| 5. Process: Worship Interpretation Opportunity | 13. Training |
| 6. Process: Needs/Wants (Individual opportunity (form)/World Café) | 14. Implementation |
| 7. Collate information | 15. Intentional opportunity for feedback/challenge from existing groups |
| 8. Discern Leadership Requirements (Informal -> Formal/Limited -> Extensive) | 16. Continue to gauge interest/needs of congregation |

Questions to Consider?

- Commitment level: financial, personal, time
- How does the Vision->Action Process affect the implementation/next phase of a SGM?