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| Final_SGM_logo | **What Starr King Church means to me**By Bob BrittonThe Universalists believed that God was too good to damn people, while the Unitarians believed that they were too good to be damned. **Anonymous** |
| **Opening and Chalice Lighting** (1 minute) | We arrive out of many singular rooms, walking over the branching streets.*We come to be assured that brothers and sisters surround us, to restore their image on our eyes.*We enlarge our voices in common speaking and singing.*We try again that solitude found in the midst of those who with us seek their hidden reckonings.*Our eyes reclaim the remembered faces; their voices stir the surrounding air.*The warmth of their hands assures us, and the gladness of our spoken names.*This is the reason of cities, of homes, of assemblies in the houses of worship.*It is good to be with one another.* **Kenneth L. Patton** |
| **Check-in** (24 min, 3 min each) | Take this time to share how you are spiritually, psychologically, emotionally, and physically.  |
| **Sharing** (5 min) | Take time to respond to what you have just heard by asking clarifying questions or to deepen their remarks. |
| **Topic Readings** (5 min) | As Unitarians, we believe all names for God point toward the same mystery. As Universalists, we believe all creation shares the same destiny. One divine spirit within and around us and one destiny before us. ~ **Rev Galen Guengerich**, Unitarian Church of All Souls, New York CityI like the silent church before the service begins, better than any preaching. ~ **Ralph Waldo Emerson**I believe we have a home, we have a spiritual tent, we have sanctuaries, we have sacred spaces that are large enough to hold those who hunger for something, hunger for something more in this lifetime. I believe that we have a message that speaks right to the deepest places of the human spirit as it cries out in its hunger and thirst. I believe that Unitarian Universalism and places like your congregations and mine are places where dreams have become realities for people, where they have been fed, where they have been given living waters. ~ **Rev Gary Smith**, UU Minister, First Parish Church Concord, MA“Put down the weight of your aloneness and ease into the conversation. The kettle is singing even as it pours you a drink, the cooking pots have left their arrogant aloofness and seen the good in you at last. All the birds and creatures of the world are unutterably themselves. Everything is waiting for you.” *Everything is Waiting for You* ~ by **David Whyte** |
| ***Brea*k** (5 min)  |  |
| **Sharing/Deep Listening –** **After individual sharing we will move into –** **Open Discussion**(60 min combined) | **Speak about this topic in any way that is comfortable to you. You may use these suggestions or questions if they are helpful.*** How long have you been a UU?
* Do you value the rituals of “worship” at Starr King…lighting a chalice, “prayer”, meditation, hymns?
* Why/how did you become a UU?
* When did you join Starr King Church and why?
* What do you appreciate most about our church?
* What irritates you the most?
* What are some of the every-day values that guide your life?
* Which values represented by Starr King are particularly aligned with your own values?
* What do you need from the church? Is the church responding to your needs? If not, what is missing?
* Have you ever considered resigning from the church? If so, why didn’t you?
* Are there unique qualities of Starr King Church that you appreciate or dislike?
* Why church?
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| **Open Discussion**  | This is a time to supportively respond to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared. |
| **Likes – dislikes about this session** (10 min) | What went well in this session? What changes would you like to see in future sessions? |
| **Announcements** (10 min) | Next session – Monday June 1, 2015, **6:00pm?** **Group Dinner – Thai Garden Restaurant** Service Project, June14 – **Advance Care Directive Workshop** - Liz |
| **Closing Reading/ Extinguish Chalice**(1 min.) | Come into this place of peace and let its silence heal your spirit;Come into this place of memory and let its history warm your soul;Come into the place of prophecy and power and let its vision change your heart. ~ **William F. Schultz** |