

UUCR Small Group Ministry Session Plan  
March 2018: STEWARDSHIP

*It is good to be together – companionship is the heartbeat of our community. May your time of gathering be blessed! -Rev. Rebekah*

CHALICE OR CANDLE LIGHTING

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OPENING WORDS (by Rev. Lyn Cox)

*We travel together on a search for meaning, having come from many different places  
and bringing many different gifts to share for the journey.  
Bless those who bring the gift of courage. Bless those who bring the gift of love.  
Bless those who bring the gift of curiosity. Bless those who bring the gift of hospitality.  
Your gifts are welcome on this journey.*

CHECK-IN

READINGS:

“You came into the world with fists closed and you go away with open palms. So, even while living stretch your hand open and give liberally.” ~Kabir

“Giving is profoundly transformative because it requires two people or entities—a giver and receiver, both of whom are affected by the act of giving. Practicing the sacred art of giving helps replace the narrow perspective of ‘me’ with an expansive view of ‘we.’ ~Lauren Tyler Wright

“When giving is viewed as stewardship, you’re able to let go of the trappings associated with possessing things and to expand your imagination to consider the possible uses for your sacred abundance.” ~UU Stewardship Guide, “Giving: The Sacred Art”

“Surplus wealth is a sacred trust which its possessor is bound to administer in his lifetime for the good of the community.” ~Andrew Carnegie

“Givers are called to be generous...they give to the right people, the right amount, at the right time...because that is the noble thing to do.” Aristotle

“Love cannot remain by itself—it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action and that action is service. Whatever form we are, able or disabled, rich or poor, it is not how much we do but how much love we put into the doing; a lifelong sharing of love with others.” ~ Mother Teresa

“When practiced consistently and intentionally, giving can become a spiritual discipline and, even more, a sacred art. When we practice giving regularly and understand that our motivation has some connection outside of ourselves, we have the opportunity to radically transform our

lives, the life of another person, even the lives of entire communities...It's about creating an entire lifestyle of generosity." ~Lauren Tyler Wright, "Giving: The Sacred Art"

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10, NIV

"When you see someone practicing the Way of giving, aid him joyously, and you will obtain vast and great blessings,' A shramana asked: 'Is there an end to those blessings?' The Buddha said, 'Consider the flame of a single lamp. Though a hundred thousand people come and light their own lamps from it so that they can cook their food and ward off the darkness, the first lamp remains the same as before. Blessings are like this, too.'" ~Buddhist Teaching

## MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

QUESTIONS and REQUESTS (Please respond to any of the questions you feel moved by. It is not necessary to respond to all of them.)

- ❖ Which reading speaks to your heart today?
- ❖ Stewardship is a religious tradition in Judaism (*tzedakah* or righteous giving), Islam (*zakat* or alms tax) and Christianity (*tithing* or giving 10%).
  - How do you feel about giving as an obligation?
  - How and to whom are we accountable for our giving?
  - What commitment to giving are you willing to make?
  - How might making a commitment to giving as a spiritual disciple lead to transformation?
- ❖ What are some ways one might create a Modus Vivendi (a lifestyle, a manner of living) of generosity and stewardship?

SHARING (up to 6 to 8 minutes each without interruption, depending on the time available, with optional open discussion at the end after all have shared)

## MOMENT OF SILENT GRATITUDE

LIKES (celebrations, gratitudes, appreciations for needs met) and WISHES (mournings, requests, acknowledgements of needs not met)

CHECK-OUT (a few words or phrases from each who wants to share)

CLOSING WORDS (by Rev. John C. Morgan)

*In the end it won't matter how much we have,  
but how generously we have given.  
It won't matter how much we know, but rather how well we live.  
And it won't matter how much we believe,  
but how deeply we love.*

EXTINGUISH THE CHALICE OR CANDLE