

UUCR Small Group Ministry Session Plan JANUARY 2019  
MYSTERY

*May your time together be meaningful and full of warm connection! ~Rev. Rebekah*

CHALICE OR CANDLE LIGHTING

OPENING WORDS:

“Truly, we live with mysteries too marvelous to be understood.  
How grass can be nourishing in the mouths of the lambs. How rivers and stones are forever in allegiance  
with gravity while we ourselves dream of rising. How two hands touch and the bonds will never be  
broken. How people come, from delight or the scars of damage, to the comfort of a poem.  
Let me keep my distance, always, from those who think they have the answers.  
Let me keep company always with those who say ‘Look!’ and laugh in astonishment,  
and bow their heads.”  
~Mary Oliver, “Mysteries, Yes”

CHECK-IN

READINGS

"Thou art greatly wise, my friend, and ever respected by me, yet I find not in your theory or your scope,  
room enough for the lyric inspirations, or the mysterious whispers of life. To me it seems that it is  
madder never to abandon oneself, than often to be infatuated; better to be wounded, a captive, and a  
[servant], than always to walk in armor." ~ Margaret Fuller; author, educator, Transcendental leader

“Whenever you find tears in your eyes, especially unexpected tears, it is well to pay the closest attention.  
They are not only telling you something about the secret of who you are, but more often than not, God is  
speaking to you through them of the mystery of where you have come from and is summoning you to  
where, if your soul is to be saved, you should go next.” ~Rev. Frederick Buechner; Presbyterian minister

“The possession of knowledge does not kill the sense of wonder and mystery. There is always more  
mystery.” ~Anais Nin, author

“There is something precious in our being mysteries to ourselves, in our being unable ever to see  
through even the person who is closest to our heart and to reckon with him as though he were a logical  
proposition or a problem in accounting.” ~Rudolf Bultmann; German Lutheran professor and scholar

“The answer is never the answer. What's really interesting is the mystery. If you seek the mystery instead  
of the answer, you'll always be seeking. I've never seen anybody really find the answer-- they think they  
have, so they stop thinking. But the job is to seek mystery, evoke mystery, plant a garden in which  
strange plants grow and mysteries bloom. The need for mystery is greater than the need for an  
answer.” ~Ken Kesey; American author

“People like you and I, though mortal of course, like everyone else, do not grow old no matter how long we live. What I mean is we never cease to stand like curious children before the great Mystery into which we were born.” ~Albert Einstein; theoretical physicist, brilliance personified

#### MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

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

~ What spoke to you from the readings?

~ Mystery is often counter balanced with certainty and rigidity. Where does “Mystery” appear in your theology? Your understanding of being a UU?

~ If you had to name a persistent Mystery as a spiritual concept in your life, what is it? How does it rest in your spirit as a Mystery?

~ What gifts are found in Mystery? What can we be grateful for in Mystery?

SHARING (up to 6 to 8 minutes each without interruption, depending on the time available)

#### 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 to close the circle)

#### CLOSING WORDS by Rev. Erica Brown

May you never thirst. May your body and your spirit always have what they need. When you are in need of refreshment, or new life, may the waters be available to you. May you never know thirst unto death, in your body or in your soul. May you never thirst.

And may your body and your spirit always thirst enough to stay alive. May you know the dissatisfaction with things as they are that leads to work for justice. May you know the thirst for new knowledge that leads to the quest for truth. May you know the desire for deeper connection that creates new and stronger relationships. May you know the spiritual thirst that keeps the soul searching, and gives the sweetness of new discovery to faithful followers of spiritual paths of all kinds.

May you never thirst too deeply, but may your thirst never be entirely quenched.

#### EXTINGUISH THE CHALICE OR CANDLE