

# "Building and Sustaining a Strong Small Group Ministry Program"

Saturday, September 27, 2008 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Registration and coffee from 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

First UU Society of Albany, 405 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12206 (518) 463-7135

Sponsored by the St. Lawrence District

**Workshop Purpose:** Many Unitarian Universalist societies are trying Small Group Ministry (or Covenant Groups) as a way to strengthen their congregations. This workshop will provide inspiration and information for lay and professional leaders who are 1) beginning a Small Group Ministry Program or 2) who are in an existing program in need of revitalization and/or 3) who are seeking inspiration and ideas on how to expand and grow an existing program. The following topics will be covered: the power and purpose of Small Group Ministry; the essential components of a strong Small Group Ministry Program; addressing common challenges in an SGM program; developing shared leadership within a small group; handling group difficulties; and a hands-on experience in an actual small group. At lunch there will be table topics so that participants who want can have a deeper conversation about a topic that is most pressing for them.

**Workshop Leader:** The workshop leader is Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy, a UU community minister and community psychologist. She is co-founder and has served as coordinator of the UU Small Group Ministry Network and serves as editor of this organization's "Small Group Ministry Quarterly." Rev. Kennedy has been working with lay led small groups for over 20 years and has offered facilitator training to hundreds of lay and professionals leaders. Her workshops get excellent reviews. She also serves as a consulting minister for the Universalist Society in Strafford, VT and Washington, VT.

**Workshop Cost:** The cost of the workshop is \$40 for one member of a church to attend and \$35 for each additional person from the same church.

Lunch is included. If you have questions, contact M'ellen Kennedy at mellenken@aol.com or workshop coordinator Rev. Deane Perkins at deanepkins@gmail.com or (518)793-3405.

## **Comments from attendees at this workshop held at the UU Church in Concord NH, Fall 2007.**

*The workshop was utterly amazing — informative, helpful, and inspiring!*

*I am so grateful to you for offering the workshop, and look forward to spreading the word and the concepts.*

*SGM has such great potential to strengthen, and deepen, the relationships and spirituality in our congregation.*

*Thank you, thank you, many times over.*

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**Please send this completed form and your check by SEPTEMBER 23rd to:**

**St. Lawrence District, 695 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222-1697**

NAME

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MAIL ADDRESS

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E-MAIL

PHONE

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CONGREGATION/CITY

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PLEASE NOTE MY SPECIAL NEEDS: Vegetarian Vegan Allergies Other:

**FEES:** I enclose a check to "St. Lawrence District" with "SGM Workshop" in the memo line for this amount: \_\_\_ \$40 one member \_\_\_ \$35 each add'l. member TOTAL enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_