

Gathering for Formation

Words of the Day

I am becoming ...

Chalice Lighting

We call forth the life of our faith by igniting our chalice.
This spark of new beginnings invites us into a sacred space
to reflect where we have been and where we are going.
Katie Gelfand

The Basket

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silence, holding ourselves and each other in silent support

Shared Readings

The self is not something ready-made, but something in continuous formation through choice of action. *John Dewey*

Some periods of our growth are so confusing that we don't even recognize that growth is happening. *Alice Walker*

Many people die with their music still in them. Why is this so? Too often it is because they are always getting ready to live. Before they know it, time runs out. *Oliver Wendell Holmes*

How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives. *Annie Dillard*

There are some things you learn best in calm, and some in storm. *Willa Cather*

Life's challenges are not supposed to paralyze you, they're supposed to help you discover who you are. *Bernice Johnson Reagon*

It is our choices . . . that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities. *J.K. Rowling*

Life is just the chance to grow a soul. *Rev. A. Powell Davies*

We are not all born at once, but by bits. The body first, and the spirit later. . . . Our mothers are racked with the pains of our physical birth; we ourselves suffer the longer pains of our spiritual growth. *Mary Austin*

None of us really changes over time. We only become more fully what we are. *Anne Rice*

Deep Sharing/Deep Listening

Round 1: Share your reflections on formation and the preparation materials.

Round 2: Share additional thoughts or reflect on what others have shared.

Closing Circle

Extinguishing the Chalice

We extinguish this flame and we remember the warmth of our community, the light of our wisdom, the generosity of our sharing. We keep these in our heart until we meet again.

Song/Chime

Announcements

The Covenant

I commit myself:

- to come to meetings when I possibly can, knowing that my presence is important to the group
- to let the facilitator know if I will be absent or need to quit
- to share with the facilitator the responsibility for good group process by watching how much time I take to speak and noticing what is going on for others
- to do the reading and thinking about the topic ahead of time
- to not gossip about what is shared in the group, and tell only my own story to others
- to honor the safety of the group by listening to what others share with an open heart
- to refrain from cross-talk, judging, giving advice, or advocating a specific view
- to share as deeply as I can when it is my turn and to stay on the “I-message.”