

## Gathering for Turning Points

*There are video session suggestions – speaking in turns, using Chat. Some sections use a timer / clock.*

**When you join the session** *Facilitators – do these for yourself first and help others.*

- Check your volume and video, if you are using video. Check your “name tag.”
- Make sure you have a copy of the Gathering available.
- **Words of the Day.** If your group is using Chat, complete one of these sentences: “A turning point I may be facing soon is ...” Or “A recent turning point in my life was ...”

**Chalice Lighting** “We’ll begin by lighting the chalice.” *Ask for a volunteer to read.*

May the world that is one in its life, a rich blue top spinning in the endless night of space, a world that is one in its interdependence and fragility, be one in our hearts and minds and deeds also.

*Charles Eddis*

**Words of the Day** “Now we’ll share the Words of the Day.” *If you’re using Chat, people can’t see chat written before they joined, so the facilitator can read. Or people can read their own.*

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns** “We’ll share joys and concerns.” *Begin, and then either call on people or ask them to “chain” to the next person. Make sure everyone has an opportunity.*

**Silence, holding each other in support** “Now a few minutes of silence” (2 or 3)

**Shared Readings** “I’ll start the first Shared Reading.” *Begin, and then either call on people or ask them to “chain” to the next person. Make sure everyone has an opportunity to read.*

“Life is a lot like chess,” he said ... “All a matter of choices. Every move you face choices, and every choice leads to different variations ... sometimes the variation you pick isn’t as good as it looked ... But you don’t know that until your game is over.” *George R.R. Martin*

People tell you that what happens to you is a direct result of the choices you make, but that’s not fair. Half the time, you don’t even realize that the choice you’re about to make is significant.

*Kristin Cashore*

Choices are never right or wrong. Perhaps, the choice you made was the best choice under the given set of circumstances and at a given point of time. *Neelam Saxena Chandra*

How often it is a small, almost unconscious event that makes a turning point. *Corrie Ten Boom*

Because the truth is always hard. Because being queer is hard, and coming out is hard, and it never stops being hard. The world keeps shoving into you. But you stand tall anyway. You take up space anyway. *Robyn Schneider*

There comes a turning point in the life of every person when he reflects on his journey and work and ponders on the next road to take. Is this the pinnacle, the ultimate? What next? *Mohanlal*

Until you make the unconscious conscious, it will direct your life and you will call it fate. *Carl Jung*

I am who I am today because of the choices I made yesterday. *Eleanor Roosevelt*

Sometimes in life, a sudden situation, a moment in time, alters your whole life, forever changes the road ahead. *Ahmad Ardalan*

Even when you think you have your life all mapped out, things happen that shape your destiny in ways you might never have imagined. *Deepak Chopra*

## **Deep Listening and Sharing**

**Round 1. Deep Sharing.** “Now we share reflections on Turning Points.” *Note the time available for each person. Go first to model. Make sure everyone has an opportunity.*

**Round 2. Responses and Comments.** *Note how much time is available for Round 2. People can unmute for freer exchange. Go first to model for the group.*

**Closing Circle** “We’re going to say a word or sentence about what we are taking away from the session.” *Begin, and then either call on people or use “chaining.”*

**Chalice** “We will extinguish the chalice.” *Ask for a volunteer to read.*

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.

## **Bell or 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 responsibility for good process by watching how much time I take to speak, noticing what is going on for others, and considering problems if they occur
- 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.”