

## Text for news release on UUSC Covenant Group Resources

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is pleased to announce the development of Covenant Group Ministry resources. With these resources, UUSC supports members of the UU community in: the search for connection with each other and the larger global community; the quest for meaningful engagement with life's most challenging questions; and the pursuit to engage more effectively with local, national, and global social justice initiatives.

Through the Covenant Group model of intimacy and ultimacy, participants will be inspired to take action on human rights issues that affect our global community. Small group worship and community building change lives and enliven commitments with purpose and passion. Individuals will find the strength and courage to take simple action steps or lead social justice projects that will ultimately help to change the world.

Covenant Group resources are focused on major UUSC program areas, such as civil liberties and the humanitarian crisis in Darfur. In modules of four to six sessions, UUSC Covenant Group Ministry resources address such topics as:

- *Living on Democracy's Edge*
- *Drumbeat for Darfu*
- *Wage Justice*
- *The Human Right to Water*
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. The sessions use a worship service format. Each module or series includes a cover bulletin that explains the structure of a UUSC covenant group session and offers ideas to mobilize the group energy into action. Two of these web-based resources are now available at <http://www.uusc.org/congregations/covenantgroups/index.html>. Additional modules will be available in late August.

In addition to being used by existing covenant groups, the modules offer instruction and structure for new groups seeking meaningful exploration around UUSC social justice issues. UUSC covenant group resources are suitable for:

- Existing covenant groups or small group ministry circles
  - New covenant groups or small group ministry circles seeking to bridge social justice work with community building and faith development
  - Social justice committees seeking to create connections and community amongst its members
  - Any group seeking to engage social justice work with faith development
  - Members of the UUSC Leadership Network seeking to create cluster groups or seeking to enrich the members' connections
- Adult education groups
- Social justice action study groups

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