



UUCDC GROWTH THROUGH SERVICE

CONVERSATION SCRIPT

Meeting Preparation

Email/Call to set up date (GTS Conversation Invite Ask)

Email confirmation (GTS Conversation Invite Follow-up)

Gather handouts (staple in this order):

1. GTS Definitions to help with Conversation
2. My Record of My GTS Conversation/Recommended Reading
3. How Do I Find Available Service Opportunities
4. Where is your heart leading you? (Ministry Team descriptions)

Gather Conversation Materials for Interviewer

1. Conversation Questions
2. GTS Key Words
3. GTS Conversation Data Collection Form and Instructions

Opening

Thanks for meeting me today.

Let me tell you about the Growth Through Service project and then I will tell you what to expect for this conversation.

GTS Project

As I'm sure you know, there are 7 principles that Unitarian Universalists affirm and promote. Growth through service is based on these principles. Let me explain how...

The third principle states that we "affirm and promote... encouragement to spiritual growth". We are not given a creed. Instead we have the responsibility to search for ourselves and to grow spiritually.

Our seventh principle speaks loudly to our connection to each other, stating that we *acknowledge the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

*And then we can look at the mission statement of UUCDC: **IGNITE personal growth. ENGAGE in loving community. SERVE with integrity.***

Put that all together – spiritual growth and service to each other – and you have our Growth Through Service project. The GTS theological grounding statement says all of this in two sentences ...” as Unitarian Universalists, we live out our faith through our service to others. True spiritual growth, in ourselves and in our congregation, often arises through our connectedness with others and through serving a higher purpose that is greater than our own individual needs.”

At UUCDC, we want everyone to experience service as a way of finding expression for our own spirituality. To do that, we want to understand what service roles will contribute toward your spiritual growth and work with you to find them. That’s why we have created Growth Through Service.

This is the mission of the GTS project. Any questions/does this make sense?

Now let’s talk about what you can expect from today’s meeting:

In today’s conversation, we will not be discussing specific service opportunities. We will not be “recruiting”. Instead, our goal is to together discern the characteristics of service at UUCDC that would be a meaningful part of your spiritual journey. **To do this, we will talk about your journey and service – past, current and future.**

I want to let you know that I will be taking notes. This is so I can remember what you have told me about what is meaningful service for you. These notes will be captured in a database, but will not be available to the congregation. Just GTS and our minister.

Definitions: We have identified some words that we will be using during this conversation that we think would be helpful to define. Our definitions are certainly not the only way to define these words. But it gives us a starting point so that you will know what we mean when we use them in our questions.

HAND OUT AND REVIEW DEFINITIONS. Don’t get into long conversation. There are lots of other ways to define. These are just our stab at it.

*Service
Service opportunity
spirituality
spiritual journey
spiritual practice*

The Journey

When growing up, did your parents or other family members bring any religion or spirituality into your upbringing?

At some point in time, many people find that they begin questioning the religion they have been born into, and start formulating their own thoughts and ideas about religion and spirituality. For many, this begins to happen during adolescence. For others, it might happen when they have children. When did this begin for you? What choices did you make?

Then what happened? What have you experienced in your life that has played a large part in your spiritual journey? (They may very well talk about coming to UUCDC by answering this question. But if not, follow up with below)

Are you a birthright/child UU? Did you choose Unitarian Universalism as an adult? What role did that choice have on your spiritual journey?

Where are you on your spiritual journey now? Where do you want to be? What are your hopes and aspirations for yourself?

SUMMARIZE what you have heard, drawing particular attention to the spiritual journey that you have just heard, even if the participant doesn't see it as a spiritual journey

Service and The Journey

Thinking back on how you have served in the past or how you are currently serving (church and non-church) can you think of a role(s) that was particularly fulfilling? What was fulfilling about it? How did it impact your spiritual journey? (Capture details of what described using form; e.g.: working alone or working in group, working with kids, working with youth, short one time jobs, serving on a committee, etc.)

Often our growth is harvested out of challenge. Can you think of a time where you have experienced negative aspects to service? Did that experience help you grow?

How do you imagine yourself serving UUCDC in a way that would be meaningful to you- that would help you move forward on your spiritual journey, that you would find fulfilling? (Capture details of what describe using form; e.g.: working alone or working in group, working with kids, working with youth, short one time jobs, serving on a committee, etc.)

Often service roles can help us further personal/professional growth. Are there any new skills that you would like to learn or develop further as part of your service at UUCDC?

In addition to service, are there other ways that you plan to explore in the next year or two that will help you move forward on your spiritual journey? (RE classes, books/reading, workshops, retreats, etc.)

SUMMARIZE – Focus on what you heard about their spiritual growth through service

And our final task today.....There are specific interest areas that we have identified and would like to review with you so that we get as much information about your interest areas as possible. Will you review this list with me?

Going forward

First, I will contact you in the next week to see if you have any questions, or if you have thought of something else you would like to add.

I will then record the characteristics of service that would be meaningful to you that we have just discussed. Not your entire journey that we have discussed. Just the characteristics of service that we identified.

What do we do with this information? Based on what we have discussed today, we encourage you to seek service opportunities that are very well matched to your goals for personal and spiritual growth, as well as time and interests. We have made this easy for you by listing all service opportunities on our website. I have a handout that gives the instructions for accessing this information. Please search these opportunities and contact me when you find an opportunity(ies) to serve that might be meaningful to you.

At the same time, as we on the GTS Team work with the leadership in the church who have service opportunities for our members, we will look for opportunities that might fit what we have talked about today.

And finally, the GTS project doesn't just end with this conversation. We are serious about creating a culture where we at UUCDC intentionally serve in a manner that feeds us. So GTS is an ongoing project. The plan is for us to get together two years from now, and then every two years after that. In those meetings, we will talk about how your service experiences have been for you over the past two years and to see if they have helped you progress on your spiritual journey. And then talk about where you would like to see yourself after the next two years, and what types of service would help you achieve that.

Does this make sense? Do you have any questions?

I want to leave you with a few handouts. First, we have a sheet where you can fill in the highlights of our conversation today. This might help you to periodically review what we've identified for service and spiritual growth to see if you are moving toward it. Second, we have a description of how to view on our website the Service Opportunities at UUCDC. We have a description of the Ministry Teams of UUCDC to help you understand where you might start if you have an idea of how you might serve but don't know how to pursue it. And finally, we have a list of books that might be helpful to pursuing your spiritual growth.

Closing

Thank you for talking with me today.... *As I stated at the beginning of our conversation, our GTS project is grounded in the premise that as Unitarian Universalists, we live out our faith through our service to others, and through serving others we experience spiritual growth.*

We hope that this conversation has helped you think about your spiritual journey, and how service has been a part of it. And we hope that it has clarified for both of us as to what would be meaningful service that would continue your spiritual growth. Our belief is that joyful service leads to personal and spiritual growth.

Has this conversation been helpful to you? In what way?

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to add something to our conversation.

After GTS Conversation

1. Enter GTS Conversation Data into database within 3 days (24 hours preferable).
<http://www.uucdc.org/webform/gts-conversation-data-collection-form>
2. Contact any person who needs to be given information (minister, caring committee)
3. Follow up call to interviewee in 1 week.
4. Enter any additional information from follow up call into database within 3 days (24 hours preferable).