

THE CHALLENGING MEMORIAL SERVICE ENRICHMENT TRAINING FOR THE EXPERIENCED LAY CHAPLAIN

Many Unitarian lay chaplains say that memorial services are the most challenging and the most rewarding of the services they lead. This weekend workshop is especially designed for the experienced lay chaplain to deepen their understanding and skills as well as their own spiritual development.

The program was developed in collaboration with the Lay Chaplaincy Committee of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver in the fall of 2006 when this area was identified by their lay chaplains as a priority for enrichment training.

SCHEDULE

Friday night – 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Introductions – sharing experiences and expectations

- I A look at grief
 - A Understanding grief
 - B Stages or seasons of grief
 - C How can we help

- II Effective listening skills
 - A Lag time
 - B Neuro linguistics
 - C Paraphrasing and productive questions

Saturday

9:00 - 10:30 am

- III The interview
 - A First call, what to say and what to avoid
 - B Using the resource questionnaire
 - C Pairing up

10:30 - 10:45 am – Break

10:45 - 12 noon

- IV Challenging memorials
 - A Death of a child
 - B Violent and sudden deaths
 - C Suicide

12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch

Lunch is provided. Panel members will be invited to join the group for lunch if they are available.

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Panel

The panel will speak on topics related to challenging memorials from the perspective of community resources.

2:30 - 2:45 pm – Break

2:45 - 3:30 pm Open discussion: what have we learned about challenging memorials?

3:30 - 5:00 pm

V Writing the eulogy – for a challenging memorial

A Thinking

B Writing

C Check the facts and practice

Participants will have Saturday evening to write a sample eulogy to present on Sunday afternoon.

People may want to join others for a group dinner out.

Sunday morning – enjoy worship, a walk, a rest...

Sunday 1:00 - 2:00 pm

VI Presentation of eulogies - including voice/presentation strategies.

Opportunity to be video-recorded to watch later.

(Two groups will be formed for presentations)

2:00 - 2:45 pm Pagan Memorial Ritual – a chance to honour our own loved ones who have passed. Please bring a memento for the altar table.

2:45 - 3:00 pm – Break

3:00 - 4:30 pm Self-care and Spiritual Development

4:30-5:00 – Summary of learnings, questions, discussion and wrap up.

PRE-REQUISITE:

Priority given to lay chaplains with 2 or more years' experience, ministers and ministerial students.

Others will be on a wait-list till 2 weeks prior to the event.

Those who are not yet lay chaplains should provide contact name and information to indicate their congregation is in agreement with their attending.