

Template for A/PIC Regional Meetings

This is a template for a meeting that lasts 4 hours and ends with a common meal. The purpose of the meeting is for A/PI UU's to network, to explore what it means to be A/PI in a white denomination. It is not meant specifically to "recruit" members to A/PIC.

Publicity:

Networks of friends, A/PI or not
via District Office
Enlist the assistance of your parish minister and any other ministers
Reach out to seminarians

Write up a flyer (a generic template) and an e-mail announcement (generic template) for posting. The publicity must clearly state time and place, purpose of the gathering and the intention to provide a safe and welcoming space specifically for A/PI's (thank you, non A/PI's) to experience the richness of caucusing within our faith community.

Supplies to have on hand: Chalice & matches; flip chart, markers and tape; Song Sheets, kleenex, cough drops, mints, water. Light snacks available (bagels, fruit). Writing tablets or paper, pens/pencils. Name tags. Clock or timer.

Plan meal: catered and brought in, or make reservations in advance at a nearby restaurant

Meeting Agenda: (Watch the time carefully so that the meeting moves right along.)

Creating Sacred Space: Opening Worship (½ hour)

Song: Gathered Here in the Mystery of the Hour

Chalice Lighting:

Reading: (I'll think of something)

Calling the names of mentors and guides, sources of inspiration, friends who we wish had joined us for the gathering

A Short Message, which sets the tone for the day, which directs participants' thinking, which includes elements of an implied covenant (included as part of the template package, can be read, or merely used as a guide)

Silent Meditation

Song: Spirit of Life

Large Group Activity: (45 min)

Welcome and Introduction of Meeting Leaders

Introduction of participants: Split up into groups of 2 or 3, and give each group 5 minutes to get to know one another. Then get back into the larger group and each person must introduce someone else, introducing them by name and telling the other person's personal UU history/spiritual journey.

Give a short history of the A/PI Caucus

Discuss the purpose of this gathering

FIRST DRAFT

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- to network with other A/PI UU's
- to share experiences of being A/PI in a predominantly white faith community
- to talk about our part in making our congregations safe and welcoming to people of color, and A/PI's in particular

*** Break ***

{Another option, instead of Group Work, would be to have a speaker come in, or to watch a video together. PBS has lots of good stuff. I just went with Group Work as an example }

Small Group Work (1 hour)

In small groups of no more than 6-8 people, choose one of these questions to discuss:

- How is our experience as A/PI's in a UU church different?
- What do we gain and what do we give up by being a tiny minority?
- There may be many folks like us whose values and beliefs align with Unitarian Universalism; what is it about us that moves us to join Unitarian Universalism?
- What is the value of caucusing?

Break into small groups and discuss for 15 minutes. Return to larger group. Have one person report back for each group. Have all groups that chose the same question report together (10 minutes each) then open discussion to the entire group. If there aren't enough people to break into groups, choose one or more of the questions for discussion by everyone.

*** Break ***

Large Group (45 minutes) - Creating a Welcoming Community

This group activity focuses on raising awareness of what we can each do.

Have the group brainstorm 2 lists: first, ways in which congregations are not welcoming (unconscious and overt racism). Then brainstorm and discuss ideas for creating a welcoming, safe space. The point is for the participants to begin to see ways in which they can make an impact on the institution through personal action.

Closing Circle (15 minutes) (all standing)

Song: We're Gonna Keep on Movin' Forward

Shared Meditation: Sharing our Gratitude

Participants are invited to name what they take, with gratitude, from this meeting

Closing Words:

Song: Go now, in Peace