

**So. New England UCC –
Engaging a Season of Discernment For A Future Of Shared Ministry
FACILITATOR'S Guide**

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FACILITATOR'S GUIDE FOR LEADING A STRUCTURED CONVERSATION

USE THE PARTICIPANTS GUIDE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS RESOURCE

Here is a guide which we hope will be followed by UCC gatherings throughout our three Southern New England Conferences.

- In advance of the gathering, identify who will facilitate and who will record (take notes) the conversation. You may also want a timekeeper
- In advance, identify what scripture you want to lift up at the beginning
- In advance, if possible, email the participant's guide to them
- Bring to the gathering copies of the participant's guide

- Welcome participants and invite them to introduce themselves
- Introducing the Conversation
 - Note the recent history of cooperation since 2010 (see resolution titled: "Awakening: A Season Of Discernment For A Future Of Shared Ministry")
 - Note that conversations like this one are and will be taking place throughout the three Conferences in 2015-2016
 - Note the web page <http://www.macucc.org/rimact> and the FAQs (which will be refined over time as people's questions become more clear)
 - Note the "Guidelines for Communal Discernment" (part of the Participant's guide)
- Frame the conversation by sharing your choice of scripture
- Let your opening prayer invoke and welcome the presence of the Holy Spirit

- Begin to move through **the questions found on the Participant's Guide**

- Additional questions may arise during the conversation. See if they are covered in the FAQ. If not, be sure the note taker records these additional questions.
- Remind participants that this is one of many gatherings that will engage this process and these questions.
- Remind participants that in 2016 there will be an additional opportunity for individuals who are part of the UCC in Southern New England to offer feedback over the internet
- Close with gratitude and prayer

We thank you for helping to lead this process:

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