September 2019 Step, Tradition, and Concept Nine

Step Nine

"Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

For me, setting my wrongs right is not something that comes natural. Justice which is the

principle behind this step is not something I was born equipped to deal with. I genuinely wanted to fix and/or please people when I could. Then drinking got in the way. The big issue with that is I rarely thought I was the one who was doing the harm. That brings me back to prior steps, which thank God there are prior steps. I needed all eight prior steps for me to have any chance to see my part, where self-reliance had failed me, and my defects of character were in action.

In more practical application the way that I have done the Ninth Step has been after doing the prior eight with the same sponsor to the best of my ability. My sponsor and I then looked at my Eighth Step list and we discussed that list. Then I put a star next to all the people that did not know about the harm I had done them. The ones that weren't aware of my harm were not going to be done directly. Most of those were through the form of character assassination or gossiping. How I could make those right through action was to firstly, stop assassinating people's character. Secondly, if they were the more extreme cases I would go to the people I spewed the negativity to and essentially change my dialogue and start to say good things about the people, try to build their character rather than assassinate.

Once we got to the direct amends we did three per week. An easy one, a difficult one, and my sponsor would pick the third. I then wrote out a script of exactly what I was going to say. I was resistant to that idea mainly because, well, more work. I proceeded in doing so because I would have started to get defensive and start to protect my ego, more harm.

The outline was essentially expressing my regret and the action that was harmful, what defects of mine were in use in doing the harm, what I've been doing differently to show up in the world, if they have any questions or if I missed anything, and what I can do to make it right?

It took a few drafts of my script on a lot of the early amends. It was tedious but i didn't want to mess things up anymore than I already had. Then I called these people and set up meeting times or proceeded over the phone. I did the same thing with

my financial amends also. In the financial areas I came to the person with 20% of the money owed and set up a payment plan where i could pay as close to 10% monthly as I could. If they didn't want to accept the money I ask where they want me to put it because it is literally not my money.

The process of making amends has been very interesting for me. I've got to show up in people's lives in ways that I never have before. I've gotten the opportunity to take direct action in ego smashing which has brought me a bit closer to my creator. I now have a platform to continue to do this in the future. I've been able to share how I've gone through this process with my fellows.

I reread through the "Ninth Step Promises" which are found on the final paragraph on the bottom of Page 83-84 in our Big Book; "Alcoholics Anonymous". I remember when I had made just a handful of these direct amends I didn't yet receive these promises to come to fruition in my life. Now I have to say that in my experience, these promises have been fulfilled in my life. It is nothing short of miraculous when I really think about it.

I do want to say that I hear a lot of stories from speakers talking about how immediately life changing and powerful making amends has been for them. That has not been my experience and I was very confused about what I had done wrong. It has no

Step Nine continued on page 5



Notes from your Service Office: The General Service Theme for 2019 is: "Our Big Book - 80 Years, 71 Languages."

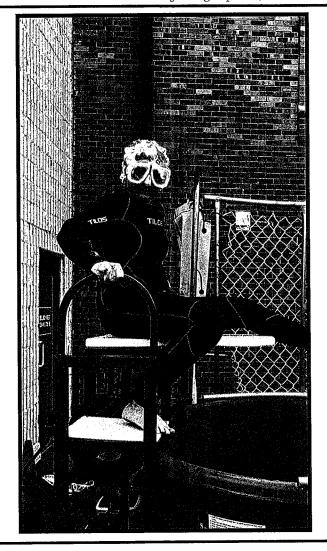
Thank you to everyone who attended our 19th Annual Unity Open House on Saturday, August 10th. It will be one I will always remember!

We exceeded our sales from last year. Roy E. our Area 36 Chairperson and Stacy M. our Area 36 Alternate Delegate cooked hotdogs on the grill for everyone! We thank them for their great service. Many members brought food to share and we are grateful for your contribution. Our two Board members, Mike A. and Brad R. had the assignment to organize the event and did all the work behind the scenes. They did an amazing job!

Then there was the dunk tank! The twelve brave soles that volunteered to sit on the ledge and ...

wait for it.....wait for it, then suddenly you were under water! They were Dave A., Donny H., Brad R., Robert S., Melanie Y., Jessica B., Maureen F., Jeff N., Terry L., Mike A., Jon H. You guys are the best! I wanted to take one for the team and signed up. It was way out of my comfort zone, but AA taught me how to face my fears. I just needed a little insurance................

Your In Love and Service,
Gail S., Office Manager



Notes from Your Board Chair:

September is always an exciting and busy month at Minneapolis Intergroup. Why you might ask? Well, among other things, every September we hold Board Officer elections as well as Board of Director member elections. This time around, four of us will be completing our terms as Board members and four new members will be elected. This election process will take place September 26 at our monthly Intergroup Reps meeting. Resumes can be downloaded from our website or found at the Intergoup office and should be submitted by September 12, 2019. If you are considering running and have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any current or former Board member as we would be glad to chat about our experience(s) serving on the Board. I promise if you run as a candidate for the Minneapolis Intergroup Board, you will not regret the experience - whether elected or not! I hope to see you there.

With Love,

Melanie Y.

Board Chair

The AA Promises

If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are half way through.

We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness.

We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it.

We will comprehend the word screnity and we will know peace.

No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others.

That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear.

We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows.

Self-seeking will slip away.

Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change.

Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us.

We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to

We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Are these extravagant promises? We think not.

They are being fulfilled among us a sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly.

They will always materialize if we work for them

Intergroup Board

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Secretary

Mitch K. Linda M.

Treasurer

Dave A.

Board Members

Jessica B.

Brad R.

Jack J. Deb W.

Dan S. Mike A.

Donny H.

Patti P.

Gail S. Office Manager, Ex-Officio

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Deb W.

District 14

Dan S.

District 17

Mike M.

District 18

Jack J.

District 19

Patti P.

District 20

Tom B.

District 21

Donny H.

District 22

Mike A.

District 24 District 25 Linda M. Dave A.

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Gail S.

Office Manager

Terri D.

Office Assistant Office Assistant

LeeAnn G. Erin D.

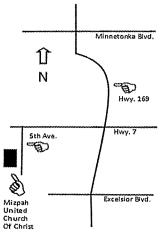
Office Assistant

Your Intergroup board meets every month at 6:30 pm on the Tuesday before the Rep's meeting in the Intergroup Office.

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The MIRUS represents the experience of A.A. members. Their thoughts, expressed herein, are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication imply endorsement by either Alcoholics Anonymous or Greater Minneapolis Intergroup.

NOTICE **NOTICE**



Intergroup

Reps Meeting Thursday, September 26th 6:30 pm At Mizpah United

412 5th Ave N. Hopkins, MN 55343. (See orientation mtg directions)

Church of Christ:

Metro District General Service Meetings

District 7

Second Monday, 6:30 pm

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

13600 Technology Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55344

District 13

First Tuesday, 7:00 pm

United Methodist Church

10506 Hanson Blvd. N.W., Coon Rapids, MN 55433

District 14

First Monday, 7:30 pm

United Methodist Church

609 8th St. N.W., Buffalo, MN 55313

District 17

Second Tuesday, 7:30 pm

Crossroads Assembly of God Church 10478 Bell Ave., Plato, MN 55370

District 18

Second Thursday, 6:30 pm

Plymouth Congregational Church

1900 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55403

District 19

Second Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Rosemount Community Center, Room 210 13885 S. Robert Tr., Rosemount, MN 55068

District 20

Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Twin Lake Alano Club

4938 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

District 21

Second Tuesday, 7:30 pm Pilgrim United Methodist Church

4325 Zachary Lane, Plymouth, MN 55442

District 22

Second Wednesday, 7:00 pm Mizpah United Church of Christ 412 5th Ave. N., Hopkins, MN 55343

District 24

First Monday, 7:00 pm St. John's Lutheran Church

119 8th Ave. W., Shakopee, MN 55379

District 25

Second Wednesday, 7:30 pm Woodlake Lutheran Church

7525 Oliver Ave. S., Richfield, MN 55423

Intergroup A.A. Orientation Open Meetings

The Saturday Orientation Open Meeting takes place every week at 10 A.M. at the Mizpah Church, 412 5th Ave. N., located just west of Highway 169 and just south of Highway 7 in Hopkins.

9/7

9/14

Step Five/Tradition Five Her Story

The History of A.A. & Its founders

His Story

9/21

Step Six/ Tradition Six

Her Story

A.A. Literature — The A.A. Grapevine

His Story

Twelve Concepts for World Service, written by Bill W. in 1962

Concept IX:

Long Form: Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Short Form: "Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees.

Concept nine doesn't mince words when telling us that good leadership with a good service structure is necessary for the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. The founders left it to us to continue what they gave us. The structure is solid and good, but up to us not to as Bob said "don't screw this thing up". That means we are to elect our trusted servants with care. How many times have I heard that someone was elected GSR while in the bathroom? While sometimes effective, it may not always be the best way to elect our servants. When I became a member of the Third Tradition Group it wasn't that way. There were many people who were qualified and willing. I started as Secretary, then Treasurer, Alternate GSR and then was elected GSR. It was expected of me to bring back a full report from an Area event that my Group sent me to. It taught me that I serve those who elected me. Do we as an Area have the same expectation on those we elect? I ask that because when we send our Delegate to the General Service Conference they are electing the Trustees of the General Service Board. Concept nine also tells us that we must elect Trustees with special skills needed for the positions that they will fill. That is why we elect good servants from our GSRs to our Delegate. It also says that when we elect our Delegates it is most important to elect them by a two thirds vote. That way it is not by popularity that they are chosen. Two thirds vote may not always mean that the elected may not be by popularity, but also that doesn't mean that they won't make a good delegate. That is why it is so important to know the service history of those standing for delegate. How have they served previously those they represent? Have they served in mind of being servants or of just having the title? In other words, what kind of servant have they been? At the General Service Conference only the Delegates that the Trustee Candidates serve will elect that new Trustee along with the Trutees that they will serve with. That way those electing the Regional Trustee know the candidates and have a better chance of electing the "right" candidate for the open position. I will have the privilege of electing the next West Central Regional Trustee at the 70th General Service Conference. I hope this gives you in 2020. I hope this gives you some food for thought in regards to Concept IX. But please read the concepts and decide for yourself!

Yours in Service, Missy P. Area 36 Delegate Panel 69



"Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail."

—<u>Aicoholiss Anonymous, p.</u>

Intergroup 12 Step Service Opportunities Contribute Your Time at Minneapolis Intergroup Just Stop In!

Daytime Phone Answering Training Provided Daytime Office Volunteers Service work available

Carry the AA Message to Outside Agencies*

Groups and Members are Invited to:

Hennepin County Adult Detention Center (Jail) (Men & Women)
Scott County Jail AA Meetings (Men & Women)
Hennepin County Adult Correct. Facility-Plymouth (Men & Women)
Corrections Temporary Contact Program (Men & Women)
Augustana Health Care (Men & Women)
Anthony Louis Center, Burnsville (Men & Women)

Call or Stop by the Office for Details *In Cooperation with the Professional Community

"This is our *twelfth suggestion:* Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can."

-<u>Alcoholics Anonymous,</u> p.

What are Faithful Fivers?

Faithful Fivers are A.A. members who graciously contribute five dollars or more* each month to support Minneapolis Intergroup.

As a Faithful Fiver, you support efforts to carry the A.A. message of hope to still-suffering alcoholics in the Greater Minneapolis Area.

"When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are generous with the hat, we give a token that we are with all those who still suffer." we are being prudent. But when grateful for our blessing and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found

Bill W., Language of the Heart

* Contributions are limited to \$5,000 per member per year and are tax deductible under Internal Revenue Code §501 (c)(3).

Page 9—Self-Support Pamphlet

Minneapolis Intergroup provides the following "Vital Services" to all A.A. groups and their members:

- Answer Phones 24 Hours a Day
- Information & A.A. Meeting Location Calls
- AA. 12-Step Calls
- AA. Literature—English & Spanish
- AA Grapevine Publications
- / A.A. Orientation Meeting
- A.A. Group Evening Phone Answering
- MIRUS Newsletter...the Shared Voice of IG
- Public Information/CPC Resource
- Intergroup Information Committee
- Intergroup Sponsored Events
- Meeting Directories
- Daytime Office Volunteers
- Night Owl/Early Bird Phone Committee
- Cooperation with Outside Agencies
- Web Site—Meetings Updated Weekly
- Special Event Information

Your Faithful Fiver contributions go directly to supporting these services!

Faithful Fivers receive a subscription to Minneapolis Intergroup's monthly newsletter, the MIRUS.

Yes! Please enroll me as a Faithful Fiver!

Complete the form on the opposite side.

Submit the form:

enclose the form in an envelope to mail, If choosing an Automatic Payment Option, or drop off the form to:

Office Manager

c/o Minneapolis Intergroup

St. Louis Park, MIN 55423-3112 7204 West 27th Street, Suite 113

the payment and keep the form for your If choosing direct payment, mail or drop off

Bill W. wrote of Intergroup Offices, "Though not to our continued expansion—to our survival as a Fellowship. Their costs are a collective Our support of services actually amounts to a recognition on our part that AA must everywhere function in full strength-and that, costty, these agencies are absolutely essential obligation that rests squarely upon all of us. under our Tradition of self-support, we are all going to foot the bill."

"Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" pamphlet

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Please enroll me	a Faithful Fiver!
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St. Louis Park, MN 55426-3112

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952-922-0880 HOTLINE NUMBER:

ANSWERED 24 HRS A DAY

www.aaminneapolis.org **MEETING INFORMATION:**

of Minneapolis and Suburban Area, Inc. Intergroup Association 7204 West 27th Street, Suite 113

St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55426-3112 phone 952-922-0880 fax 952-922-1061 www.aaminneapolis.org

info@aaminneapolis.org

Faithful Fiver become a

and well-being of A.A. itself." be. He also wants to do what he being of his fellow alcoholics. Therefore he is bound to have a vital interest in the permanence "Every A.A. wants to make sure and his spiritual well-being afterward. This is just as it should can for the survival and wellof his survival from alcoholism,

Bill W., Language of the Heart, p. 166 originally published in the April 1958 Grapevine reprinted with permission of The A.A. Grapewine, Inc.

The Twelve Traditions - How They Apply In Our Lives

TRADITION Nine

A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve..

When my AA journey began, tradition nine in particular was something I just couldn't grasp. The idea that any group of people, let alone a worldwide fellowship, could function without strict organization was beyond my comprehension. Prior to finding my place in the middle of AA, I thought rules, guidelines and structure were necessary because it helped me feel like I was in control of my unmanageable life. By the grace of God, I was able to work the steps with my sponsor and discover how my spiritual malady, character defects, and false perceptions caused my own chaos as well as my desire for control. By working the program and surrounding myself with other alcoholics I have been able to not only better understand the need for Tradition nine but also embrace how incredible it is that AA continues to flourish in unity with minimal organization.

Soon after I started attending my home group I was approached by one of our committee members and asked to greet. I didn't know it at the time but this was my introduction to service work in AA. As a new member this gave me a sense of belonging, a way I could be helpful and that was just what I needed to stick around the rooms a little longer. With that I went from a newcomer unsure if I belonged to one among many in our fellowship. From that point I saw many members, and as often as I could I joined, on various committees, boards and positions to organize all the different components of our fellowship and 12 step work. Whether it was making coffee, bringing meetings into different facilities, buying literature, or paying the bills so we have a place to neet because the focus on our primary purpose and principles there is no need for strict structure or line of command.

"Unless each AA member follows to the best of his ability bur suggested Twelve Steps to recovery, he almost certainly signs his own death warrant. His drunkenness and dissolution are not penalties inflicted by people in authority; they result from his personal disobedience to spiritual principles." Page174 Twelve and Twelve

Today I have a better understanding of this tradition and it is even more astonishing to me now.

rin D, Hopkins or the Mirus

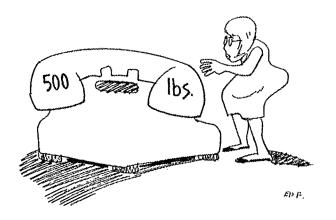
Step Nine continued from page 1

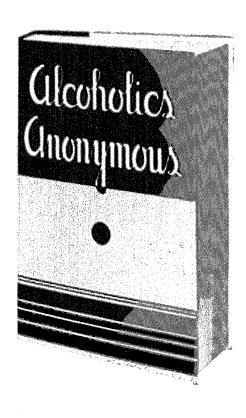
doubt been a tremendous experience for me but I had my expectations set far to high for reality. Another thing is that the actual amends begins once the dialogue with the person I owe it to ends. Post the direct amend is truly when the rubber hits the road. That's when my behavior needs to change so I don't continue to make these same mistakes.

Making amends has brought me closer to my creator, my sponsor, my fellows and has given my inventories and defects a purpose. You can do it too, it just becomes easier when I'm not alone.

Jared H, Crystal For the Mirus

Made direct amends to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others



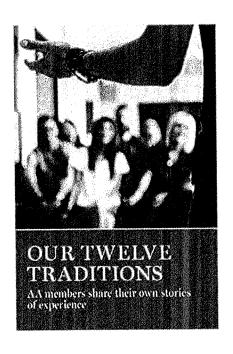




AA Book of the Month:

75th Anniversary Big Book
Grapevine Book of the Month:

Our Twelve Traditions
Pamphlet of the Month:
The Twelve Traditions
Illustrated



Group Contributions - July 2019. Thank you all, in the Spirit of Hope.

A New Day Lakeville A New Freedom - W.S. Alano A Way Out Sunday Men's Anoka Today Alano Squad #3 As Bill Sees It - Delano As Bill Sees It Medina Back to Basics Women's Grp St Luke's Bar None Tuesday AA Group **Basic Principles** Basic Twelve Basic Twelve & Twelve Blaine Alano Sq 3 Blaine Alano Sauad 10 Breakfast Club-Saturday A.M. Bridges-Shakopee Bryant Lake Grp By Grace Group-Mound Cavalier Club Mainstreeters Cedar Lake Women's Grp Colfax Tuesday AA Grp Crushed Grapes Design for Living (Coon Rapids) Dynamic Women's Group East Lake LOL Elders Big Book Stories-Friday Elders Big Book- Thursday

Elders Steps & Traditions Tuesday Elders Topic - Sunday 10 am Elders Topic - Sunday 10 am Eternal Vigilance Foreword XIX Grp Foundation Stone Group of AA Foxhall Chapter 7 Grp Friday Night AA in Rockford Friday Night Shift Fridley Alano "Route 66" Gloria Dei AA Gratitude Group Groveland Grp Happy Destiny Happy, Joyous,Free-Columbia Hts homeboyz Squad Isanti Alano Sq 12 It Might Have Been Worse La Nueva Esperanza Ladies Night Happy Hour-Sahara Club Lakers AA GROW Group Life is Good AA Group Living Sober AA Group Men's Problem & Solution Group Minnetonka Big Book Study Grp Minnetonka Senior AA

Mulligan Meeting Tues. Noon New Hope Alano Squad 40 Oasis Group -- Shakopee Pocket Our Pride Practical Experience Promises at Knox Prospect Park AA Grp Ramsey AA (NowThen AA) Rich/Blmngtn Alano Sq 6C Rich/Blmngtn Alano Sq 6G Rich/Blmngtn Alano Sunday Open Spkr Ridge Runners I Grp Ridge Runners III Grp River Valley AA Grp Rule 62 AÁ Sahara Club Sahara Club Group #107831 Saturday Night Live Group Serenity Group - Maple Grove Serenity Sisters Silver Lake AA Group Silver Lake AA Group Sisters In Sobriety Sisters in Step Sisters' Shoulder to Shoulder

Sober on Saturdays Group

St. Louis Park Sunday Night AA Grp St. Lukes Saturday Mens Group Steps Forward Group Stepsisters of Northfield Sunday Night Grace Sunday Serenity Group Third Tradition Group of AA Thursday Night AA Group-Nisswa Thursday Night Big Book in Buffalo Thursday Night Womens AA Group Tonka Alano Club Groups Tradition Five Turning Point Group Wayzata Valley Step AA Group Watertown AA - Wednesday Wayzata Step Sisters Wayzata Womens Group- 10 a.m.Monday We Agnostics of Uptown We Think Not Wed Night Big Book (Mpls) Winsted Group Worthy Women's Big Book Study

Every AA group that sends a contribution is sent a receipt along with a "Thank You" letter from the office, it is the responsibility of the group treasurer or trusted servant to share the receipt and "Thank You" letter with their respective group. Every AA group that sends a contribution will be listed in the MIRUS. Upon inquiry your AA group can request a contribution summary.

Group Contributions/Birthday Plan** July 2019

Foxhall Chapter 7 (3) Tradition Five

**On their sobriety birthday, many AA members contribute one dollar or more for each year of sobriety to any or all of our four service entities; District, Area Assembly, the General Service Office and the local Intergroup. Some members attribute their birthday contribution to their home group. Those groups receive a receipt and "Thank You" letter from the office and are listed in the MIRUS.

Calendar of Events

Open Speaker Meetings

Thursday:

Central Pacific Group, 7:30 PM Hennepin United Church, 511 Groveland Av., Minneapolis

Foxhall Chapter 7 Group, 7:30 PM Wooddale Church, 6636 Shady Oak Rd., Eden Prairie A sign language interpreter is provided each week.

Friday:

From the Heart Open Speaker Meeting, 7:00 PM St. Paul's United Church, 201 Buffalo St., Delano

Edina Open Speaker Meeting , 7:30 PM Christ Presbyterian Church, 6901 Normandale Blvd., Edina

Three Legacies, 7:30 PM Cross of Glory Church, 4600 Shady Oak Rd., Hopkins A sign language interpreter is provided each week.

Saturday:

There Is A Solution (Beginners Meeting), 6:00 PM Dakota Alano Society, 3920 Rahn Rd., Eagan

Saturday Night Open Speaker Meeting, 7:30 PM At The Common Table (parking in back of Bldg.) 2001 Riverside Ave., Minneapolis

Saturday Night Live Open Speaker Meeting, 7:30 PM Basilica School 3rd floor (behind the church) 16th St. & Hennepin Ave., downtown Minneapolis Free parking in the ramp across 16th St. Wheelchair accessible

Tradition One, 7:30 PM
Pilgrim United Methodist, 4325 Zachary Ln., Plymouth

Saturday Night Greet & Meet, 7:30 PM The Hall, 4805 Welcome Ave. N., Crystal

Saturday Night Open Speaker Meeting, 8:00 PM 2218 1st Ave. S., Minneapolis

Sunday:

Open Speaker Meeting, 11:00 AM Richfield Bloomington Alano 9321 Bryant Ave. S., Bloomington

Step & Speaker Open Meeting, 7:00 PM First Baptist Church, 1021 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

Special Events

September 6th, 7th, 8th 29th Annual Heartland Round-up Park Rapids, MN www.heartlandroundup.com

September 20th, 21st, 22nd
Southern Minnesota Round-Up
New Location-1430 5th Avenue
Mankato, MN
Doors Open – 5:00 pm

October 4th, 5th
74th Annual Duluth Round-Up
First United Methodist Church
Duluth, MN
www.duluthroundup.org

October 26, 2019 The Spiritual Life is not a Theory Workshop 371 Industrial Boulevard Minneapolis, MN Noon-4pm

General Service Announcements

October 12th
Area Assembly
New Ulm Community Center
New Ulm, MN
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

The Minneapolis
Intergroup Office will
be closed on Monday
September 2nd for
Labor Day.

Most Area 36 events have a map on how to find the location @ www.area36.org. Open Speaker Meetings are listed for the convenience of members who wish to bring newcomers and non-alcoholic friends. Listing in the Mirus should not be construed as any endorsement on the part of Minneapolis Intergroup. Call Intergroup if you need directions to any of these Open Speaker Meetings. Roundups, Workshops and Special Events are not endorsed by Minneapolis Intergroup and listings are provided for informational purposes only. Flyers for these events are available at the office.

INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION 7204 W. 27th St., Suite 113 St. Louis Park, MN. 55426

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