

Lifespan Faith Development

Report to the UUA Board of Trustees

April 2008

Director's Office

Judith A. Frediani, Director of Lifespan Faith Development, Tapestry of Faith Project Director
Adrienne Ross, Office and Tapestry of Faith Project Manager
Wanda Wong, Marketing and Resource Assistant Manager

Transitions

In March, we welcomed Wanda Wong to the Curriculum Office as our Marketing and Resource Assistant Manager. Wanda, who is working on her MBA at Simmons College, comes with a wide range of experiences in communication and education. Wanda will be developing a new, comprehensive website for Tapestry of Faith, as well as supporting the work of curriculum and resource development in many other ways.

At the end of February, our Youth Office Assistant, Rek Kwawer, left the UUA to become the Office Manager for the Earth Dance Retreat Center in Western Massachusetts. Rek was a real asset to our work and the Youth Office, and she will be missed by all in Lifespan Faith Development.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

This winter has seen extensive, and at times, intensive, work by many staff and volunteers on the development of an infrastructure to support our congregations and districts in their support of effective, faithful youth and young adult ministries. A number of important stakeholder meetings have been held; much feedback has been sought and received; budget proposals have been wrestled with; and progress has been made to begin implementation of the visions generated by the consultation processes.

This progress has not always been smooth; meaningful change seldom is. Two significant changes are in development. One is the movement from the present continental YRUU leadership structure into a more inclusive youth ministry with an as-yet-unknown shape. We appreciate that for some, it is hard to live in this uncertainty and we ask for patience with this transition, which offers so much opportunity for creativity and broad participation in a new vision. A Youth Ministry Working Group meets for the second time in April to move us forward with care.

The second change involves bringing young adult and campus ministries into the Lifespan Faith Development staff group where we can create truly *lifespan* ministries and where youth and young adult ministries can collaborate effectively.

While both of these changes have broad support, we continue to address questions and concerns. Unfortunately concerns sometimes arise from miscommunication or misinformation, and sadly, some of the reactions are clearly founded on general mistrust of the UUA or some of its components. I would like the Board of Trustees members to have all the information they need

to understand and support the goals of renewed youth and young adult ministries. Please contact me if I can be of assistance in this area service to our congregations.

Below is information about the progress of the Tapestry of Faith curricula and the specific activities of the Youth Office and the larger work of implementing the vision for youth ministry.
Judith

Children's Curricula

Susan Lawrence, Managing Editor

In January, two children's programs in the Living Faith series, *Creating Home* (K/1) by Jessica York and Christy Olson and *Moral Tales* (2/3) by Alice Anacheke-Nasemann and Elisa Pearmain, were published online. A third program in the series, *Toolbox of Faith* (4/5) by Kate Erslev, was provided directly to congregations for field testing. A total of 25 congregations are field testing Living Faith curricula.

My primary focus for the remainder of 2008 is the developmental edit of the three Seeking Truth children's curricula we plan to field test in September and January. In the course of this work, I am also creating tools (e.g., an annotated CMS template for children's authors) to help authors prepare their manuscripts appropriately for publication. Please see the Status Report below.

Youth Curricula

Jessica York, Youth Programs Director

Work continues on five resources for youth as part of Tapestry of Faith. During February, I worked with UUA Publications to make several structural changes to *Coming of Age: A Handbook for Congregations*. We have three programs that go online in three consecutive months. *Families*, a program for junior high, is currently in the process of copyediting and proofing as we prepare it for uploading later this month. I am editing a high school curriculum, *Exploring Our Identities through Poetry* by Karen Harris, which will go online in April. *Amazing Grace: Exploring Right and Wrong* by Rick Kimball, the first sixth grade program in Tapestry, will go online in May.

A Call for Authors was issued in February for two, new year-long youth programs: *Building Bridges* and *Virtue Ethics in Today's World*. Author selection will take place in April.

In January, I presented information about Tapestry of Faith and a sample workshop at the MidSouth District RE Summit in Mobile, AL. More than thirty religious educators, ministers, RE teachers, and other congregational leaders representing every state in the district attended. I also participated in the Sunday worship service.

Several days were spent in fellowship with other Unitarian Universalist religious professionals of color, Latino/Latina, and multicultural, in a retreat in early March. This was the first year the retreat included religious educators and I was one of four who were able to attend.

Adult Curricula

Sarah Gibb Millspaugh, Adult Programs Director

I am guiding the development of multiple *Tapestry of Faith* programs for adults this spring. The *Spirit in Practice* curriculum is being field tested in over 20 congregations. Several adult resources are being written by our talented authors, and I am editing several more for online publication. Please see the Status Report below for details.

The *Our Whole Lives for Young Adults and Sexuality and Our Faith for Young Adults* have been published and are available through the UUA Bookstore. These programs are appropriate for both congregations and campus groups. I am working with staff in Lifespan Faith Development, Publications, and Communications to promote the curriculum to UU and secular organizations. Training for facilitators is now available, and we hope to have many sites using the program starting in the fall of 2008.

Tapestry of Faith Status Report

Published in Print – as of April 2008

Adults

- *Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for Young Adults, Ages 18-35* by Rev. Dr. Michael J. Tino, Laura Stuart, MPH, and Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh
- *Sexuality and Our Faith: A Companion to Our Whole Lives for Young Adults* by Mandy Keithan (UU) and Lynn Young and Rev. T. Michael Rock (UCC)

Published Online – as of April 2008

Adults

- *Spirit of Life* by Rev. Barbara Hamilton-Holway (field test version)
- *Spirit in Practice* by Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom (field test version)

Children

- *Creating Home* (Living Faith, grades K/1) by Jessica York and Christy Olson
- *Moral Tales* (Living Faith, grades 2/3) by Alice Anacheka-Nasemann and Elisa Pearmain
- *Toolbox of Faith* (Living Faith, grades 4/5) by Kate Erslev,

Being Edited After Field Test for Publication

Adults

- *Principled Commitment: A Program for Unitarian Universalist Couples* by Melanie Davis, Stephanie Haymaker, Rev. Craig Hirshberg, and Rick Bellingham.

- *Spirit of Life* by Rev. Barbara Hamilton-Holway

Youth

- *Coming-of-Age: A Handbook for Congregations* by Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh (print resource), primarily for junior high youth
- *Families* edited by Tracey L. Hurd, based upon a program originally created by Helen Bishop and Susan Grider, for junior high youth
- *Exploring Our Identities Through Poetry* by Karen Harris, for high school youth

Being Edited for Field Test

Children

- *Amazing Grace* by Rick Kimball

Being Written

Adults

- *UU Values and Ethics*, by Rev. Dr. William Murry and Rev. Ginger Luke
- *UU Theology: What Moves Us*, by Rev. Dr. Thandeka
- *Leadership: Harvest the Power*, by Rev. Matt Tittle and Gail Tittle
- Unitarian Universalist History (general)
- *UU History of Resistance and Transformation*
- *Living our UU Values*

Children

- *Seeking Truth, Grades K-1 Wonderful Welcome* by Aisha Hauser
- *Seeking Truth, Grades 2-3 (untitled)* by Alice Anacheke-Nasemann and Lynn Ungar
- *Seeking Truth, Grades 4-5 Windows and Mirrors* by Jenice View, Gabrielle Farrell, and Natalie Fenimore

Author Selection/Proposal Phase

Adults

- *Theological Diversity: Different Beliefs/One Faith*
- *The New UU*

Youth

- *Building Bridges: Engaging Youth with Theological Diversity*
- *Virtue Ethics in Today's World*

Children

- *Creating Love, Grades K-1*
- *Creating Love, Grades 2-3*
- *Creating Love, Grades 4-5*
- *Creating Love, Grade 6*

Office of Youth Ministries

Youth Ministry Implementation

1. Youth Ministry Working Group

The Youth Ministry Working Group's key task is to move the recommendations of the Summit on Youth Ministry forward to implementation. This responsibility includes reviewing, critiquing and re-shaping a draft of what a new framework for effective UU Youth Ministry might look like. The group's second meeting will be April 11-14, 2008 at the Walker Center in Newton, MA.

2. Chrysalis Program Re-Visioning

A group of stakeholders in the Chrysalis leadership program met February 28th – March 2nd 2008. Participants included trainers, district staff members, a DRE and UUA staff. This meeting evaluated the current structure and recommended a new structure that would support the goal of a regionalized training program. This goal is from the Summit Report on Youth Ministry. Team members from the Office of Youth Ministry will work together to compile the ideas into a proposal for the Director of LFD and for the Youth Ministry Working Group to evaluate.

3. Panel on Theological Education Roundtable on Youth Ministry

The Roundtable on Youth Ministry was held March 5-8, 2008 to make recommendations for ministerial involvement in youth ministry in such areas as Theological Education, Credentialing and Fellowship, and Continuing Education and Training. A full report from this meeting will be made available to the Board and the Panel on Theological Education.

4. Social Justice Re-Visioning

The Office of Youth Ministry is working in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and the UUA Washington Office for Advocacy, to hold a meeting with key social justice leaders and both youth and adults in our faith to re-imagine youth social justice work, including its opportunities for leadership development, multigenerational experiences, and spiritual development and service. This meeting will be held in the fall of 2008

YRUU

Steering Committee

YRUU Steering Committee will meet in April with the Youth Ministry Working Group to provide feedback about a post-continental YRUU structure. They will also attend General Assembly in June. Please see the Frequently Asked Questions about the status of YRUU and Youth Ministry at <http://www.uua.org/leaders/announcements/100691.shtml>.

Youth of Color Ministries

DRUUMM Youth and Young Adults

DRUUMM YaYA will hold their annual Spring Summit April 3rd-6th 2008 at the Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church in Ft. Worth, TX. The Deans of this year's summit are Zarinah

Ali and George Brown. Elections will be held at the summit to elect two new members for the 2008-2009 year.

Events

General Assembly Youth Caucus

General Assembly Youth Caucus staff and the Office of Youth Ministry staff are preparing for GA Pre Site, April 3rd – April 6th, in Ft. Lauderdale. They will plan programming for Youth Caucus participants, meet with the GA Planning Committee, and tour the convention center.

LREDA Fall Conference

Planning has commenced for the LREDA Fall Conference in October, 2008. The theme will focus on multi-generational faith communities. The Office of Youth Ministries will partner with Young Adult and Campus Ministry staff, District Staff, and LREDA members to offer workshops. The keynote speaker is Rebecca Parker.

Chrysalis Training Program

As we work to re-vision our youth ministry training program, the current Chrysalis training program remains active. This spring, there are three Leadership Development Conferences, held at the St. Lawrence District, Mid-South District, and the Western Region of Canada.

Lifespan Faith Development Travel Schedules April – June 2008

Judith A. Frediani

April 11-14	Youth Ministry Working Group	Newton, MA
June 24-30	General Assembly	Ft. Lauderdale

Jesse Jaeger

April 11-14	Youth Ministry Working Group	Newton, MA
June 23-30	General Assembly	Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Darrick Jackson

April 10-13	YRUU Steering Committee Meeting	Newton, MA
April 3 – 6	GA Pre-site	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
June 23-30	General Assembly	Ft. Lauderdale, FL

India McKnight:

April 3 – 6	GA Pre-site	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
April 11-14	Youth Ministry Working Group	Newton, MA

June 23-30 General Assembly Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Sara Eskrich:

April 10-13 YRUU Steering Committee Meeting Newton, MA

April 11-14 Youth Ministry Working Group Newton, MA

May 10: NH/VT/NE District Youth Summit Nashua, NH

June 25-29: General Assembly Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Sarah Gibb Millspaugh (Aliso Viejo, CA)

Jessica York (Birmingham, AL)

April 6 - 11 LFD staff group meetings Boston, MA

June 24-29 General Assembly Ft. Lauderdale