



Money, Spirit and Life: The Wi\$dom Path

General Assembly 2014 Program #327

Friday, June 27 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

RICC West Lobby

uua.org



Introductions

Workshop Leaders:

Dan Boyce: *President's Council*

Gail Forsyth-Vail: *Faith Development Office*

Patricia Hall Infante: *Wi\$dom Path Co-Author*

Rev. David H. Messner: *Wi\$dom Path Co-Author*

Dr. Wayne Clark: *Congregational Stewardship Network*



Overview

- Opening Words
- Vision and Hopes
- Spectrum Exercise
- Why it is important to talk about money
- Guided Tour of Wi\$dom Path
- Wi\$dom Path and Congregational Stewardship
- Q & A



Opening





Vision and Hopes





Let's Have Fun!

Spectrum

Exercise



Money Is...

A big part of
my life

Not important
to me



Money Is...

Related to
my faith

Unrelated
to my faith



Money Is...

The root
of all evil

A tool for
good



Money Is...

Connected to
things of value

Disconnected
from what's
real



Money Is...

Necessary in
Church

Better left
outside the
church



I am...

Happy to talk
about money

Unhappy to
talk about
money



I am...

Generous
with Money

Miserly
with money



I am...

In control of
my money

Subject to
control by my
money



I am...

A worrier
about money

Carefree with
money



I am...

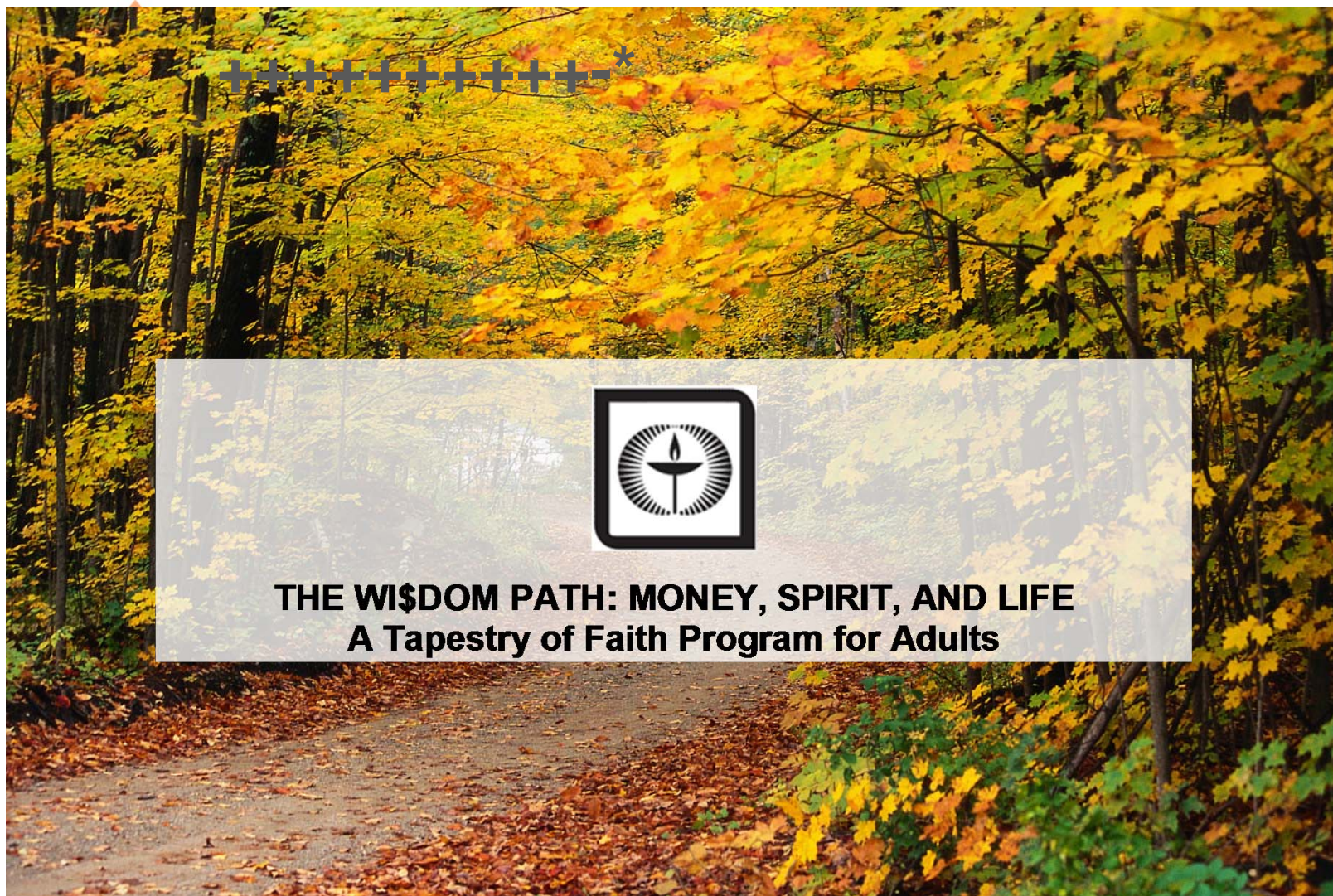
Rich

Poor



Why it is Important to Talk About Money





THE WISDOM PATH: MONEY, SPIRIT, AND LIFE
A Tapestry of Faith Program for Adults

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/wisdompath/index.shtml>

uua.org



The Wi\$dom Path aims to:



- Explore the place of money in our personal and community lives
- Explore and articulate individual financial histories and values
- Identify and evaluate social and religious teachings, practices, and values with regard to wealth and virtue
- Consider the effects of their economic decisions in our communities and in the wider world
- Develop personal credos and action plans for wise, meaningful, and spiritually and ethically healthy financial living.



Tapestry of Faith Vision

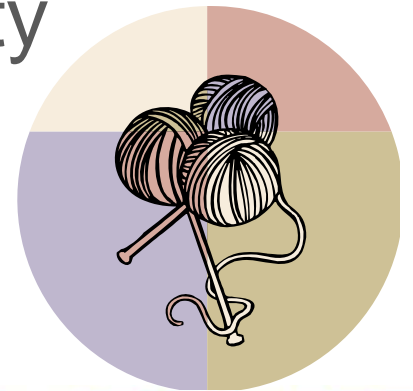


- All people are lovable beings of infinite worth, imbued with powers of the soul. *We are obligated to use our gifts, talents, and potentials in the service of life.*
- We carry on our Unitarian Universalist religious heritage and are part of a community of faith that has value and *provides resources for living.*



The Four Strands of T of F

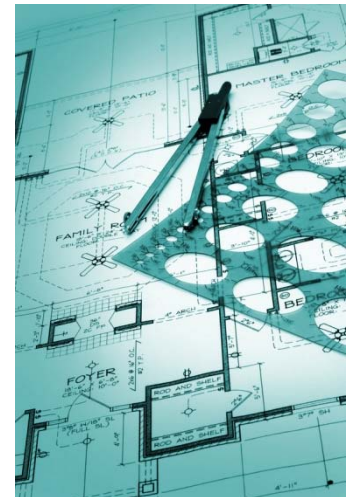
- Ethical development
- Spiritual development
- Unitarian Universalist identity
- Faith development





Tapestry of Faith Structure

- Spiritual preparation for leaders
- Story is central
- Invites reflection and uses personal story
- Flexible: alternate activities
- Take It Home
- Faith in Action





The Three Themes of the Wi\$dom Path

Workshops 1-3: Money and Self

Participants build awareness of their own "money story" and explore their own attitudes and experiences with money.





Workshop 1: Talking About Money

This workshop begins the exploration by asking: Why is it important to talk about money? Participants think about the meaning of money and the ways one's personal money issues can be a factor in living a fulfilling life.



The importance of money flows from it being a link between the present and the future. — John Maynard Keynes, British economist (1883-1946)



Workshop 2: The Meaning of Money in Our Lives



- Beginning in childhood and throughout our adult lives, we receive many messages about money from family members, friends, co-workers, popular culture and our faith community.
- Understanding one's personal story and the values that are at the root of one's relationship with money is an important step in creating a spiritually healthy relationship with money.

What you are now is what you have been, what you will be is what you do now.
— The Buddha



Workshop 3: Cultural Lessons About Money and Wealth

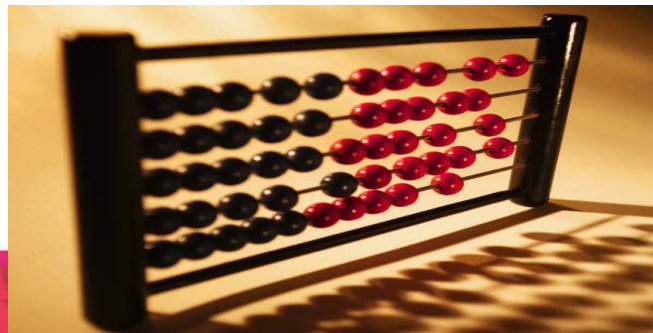
- This workshop creates a space for reflecting on the spoken and unspoken messages we receive about money throughout our lives.
- Participants examine messages about money and wealth from several major religious traditions as well contemporary Unitarian Universalism, asking whether and how these religious messages connect to our own understandings of wealth and money and our sense of financial "virtue."

The true thrift is always to spend on the higher plane; to invest and invest, with keener avarice, that he may spend in spiritual creation, and not in augmenting animal existence. — Ralph Waldo Emerson, in The Conduct of Life



Workshops 4-7: Money and Society

Participants explore the ways in which money connects us with others, including issues of classism and economic justice as well as consideration of money issues in congregational life.





Workshop 4: The Many Meanings of Money

This workshop considers the many ways money influences our choices and relationships at home and in our congregation. While we sometimes view money as a straightforward medium of exchange, at other times we attach social, relational, or political significance to money or designate certain monies for specific purposes.

*Follow the money. Always follow the money. —
from the film All the President's Men*



Workshop 5: Money and Society

- This workshop focuses on economic justice and economic class to explore ways money and wealth shape our individual choices and actions in the broader society. What day-to-day challenges and opportunities face people in different economic circumstances? How do one's financial means or social class relate to the dreams we have for our lives? How have participants encountered or observed classism?
- Participants safely engage with the challenging topic of classism through activities, a story, and a game.

If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered. — Proverbs 21:13



Workshop 6: A Network of Mutuality

This workshop looks outward to examine the impact of our personal financial choices in the global economic community. Participants will deepen discussion about ways our Unitarian Universalist values resonate with a sense of responsibility to the economic greater good.

We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. — The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Workshop 7: Imagining A Transformed World

This workshop invites participants to think of persistent inequality and deprivation not as a failure of human goodness or commitment, but rather as a call for greater imagination and willingness to enact new ways to connect people in meaningful and just economic relationships across social and geographic boundaries.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. — Margaret Mead



Workshops 8-12: Money, Spirit, and Life

Participants delve into ways to align faith, values, and a sense of a life calling with their financial ways of being.





Workshop 8: Faithful Earning

For many, the relationship with money is connected to the dynamics of the work done to earn it. Money has real human meaning, in part, because it often comes from hard effort and requires one to commit a significant part of one's life. This workshop explores the "earning" dimension of the larger cycle of acquiring, interpreting, and using money in spiritually rich and socially connected ways.

Work is about a search for daily meaning as well as daily bread, for recognition as well as cash, for astonishment rather than torpor; in short, for a sort of life rather than a Monday through Friday sort of dying. — Studs Terkel, American journalist



Workshop 9: Faithful Spending

In this workshop, participants examine how spending habits and practices do and do not reflect their spiritual and ethical values and consider the impact of consumerism on all of our lives. Through activities, participants reflect on what they really treasure and the different ways they define what constitutes wealth.

We are constantly seeking more only to discover that more is never enough. — Vicki Robin, in Your Money or Your Life



Workshop 10: Faithful Giving

The crux of the workshop is the conversation about faithful giving and the ways in which giving transforms the giver. Participants explore their own experiences and motivations through sharing their own giving stories. Participants set their own giving intentions and exchange symbolic gifts of candy coins in a concluding ritual.

I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver. — Maya Angelou



Workshop 11: Faithful Investing

Through investing we can create opportunities for others to produce things of value and yield an economic return, in a manner—we hope—that aligns with both our moral values and worldly objectives. At its best, investment connects people in a way that creates and enhances possibilities for all concerned. The workshop explores investing our resources toward such an end, in a meaningful and mindful way.

It is only by following your deepest instinct that you can lead a rich life, and if you let your fear of consequence prevent you from following your deepest instinct, then your life will be safe, expedient and thin. — Katharine Butler Hathaway, 20th-century U.S. American writer



Workshop 12: Spiritual Practices in a Material World

The workshop revisits prompt questions from previous workshops and guides participants to articulate a "credo" about money which states their personal beliefs, values, and intentions. Then, participants plan how they will transform their intentions into actions and make a commitment to follow through.

I wanted to change the world. But I have found that the only thing one can be sure of changing is oneself. — Aldous Huxley, British author (Brave New World)



Using Wi\$dom Path in Your Congregation

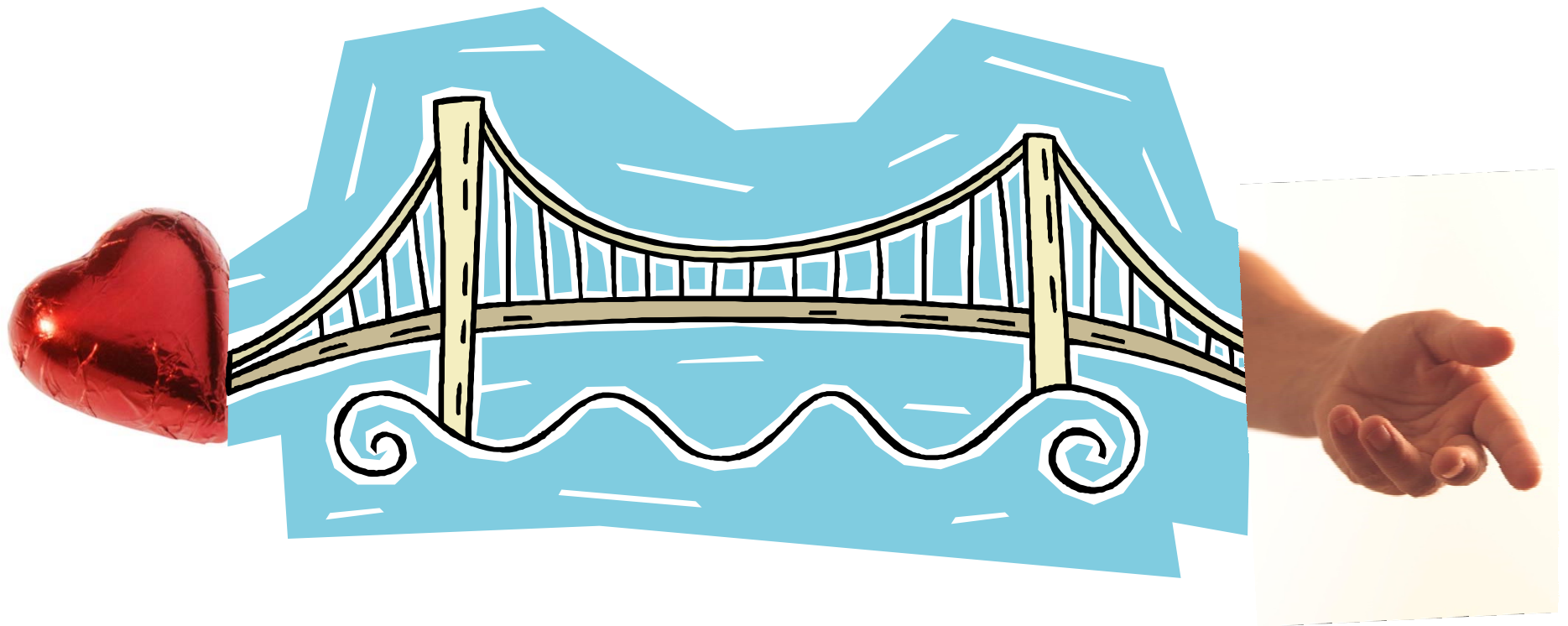


- Ideal to offer all 12 workshops in sequence.
- Pacing may vary.
 - All 12 in one program year or spread over multiple semesters or years.
 - Do several workshops at one time in a retreat setting.
- Abbreviated program, Workshops 1 and 2; or 1,2 and 3.
- Some individual workshops may be suitable for leadership training or retreats.
- Choose leaders carefully.
- UUA is developing “training of trainers.”





Wi\$dom Path and Congregational Stewardship





Q & A





uua.org