

Welcome!

**Jump-starting Your UU
Adult RE Program**

May, 2014

Gail Forsyth-Vail, presenter
Pat Kahn & Alicia LeBlanc, co-hosts

UUA Faith Development Office



“Housekeeping”

Before we begin, please:

- Mute your mic.
- Turn off (“stop”) your camera.

UUA Faith Development Office



“Housekeeping”

- Audio problem? Log out of FUZE and call in by phone (listen only).
- Recorded webinar and slides:
www.uua.org/re/teachers/webinars



“Housekeeping”

- Please mute yourself during the presentation (mute button in Fuze or *6 on phone).
- Raise red flag to speak and we will call on you. You can also contribute using the Meeting Chat box.



“Housekeeping”

- Jot questions/comments in Meeting Chat box during presentation.
- Watch Meeting Chat for links and information; cut/paste to your computer.





If you are looking to...

...better organize and support adult programming in your congregation

...update adult program offerings

...figure out how to connect adult programming with mission and ministry

...better serve adults of all ages and life stages

...start a new program

...restart or re-energize your adult programs

...this webinar is for you!

What's in a name?

*What name do you call
adult programming
in your congregation?*

Adult RE?

Adult Spirituality?

Adult Learning?

Adult Programs?

Lifelong Learning?

Something else?

No particular name?

*What does the name
say about...?*

- who is included?
- who is welcome?
- program formats?
- program content?

Models for Adult Programming Responsibilities

- Minister
- Religious Educator
- Ministerial Intern
- Other paid staff member
- Individual volunteer oversees entire program
- Individual volunteers take charge of particular offerings without an overall coordinator
- Volunteer committee (Lifespan RE Committee or Adult RE Committee)
- Some combination - MOST COMMON



YOUR BEST NEXT STEP

Gather Wise People to think about the congregation's mission and the needs of both the community within and the broader community beyond your congregation

Clarify the group's authority and responsibility in the context of your congregation's structures and systems.

Invite them to think deeply and consider some important questions.



Who are the adults in our congregation?



Characteristics of Adult Learners

- They come with experience.
- They ask questions.
- Some are skeptical and challenging; others are goal-oriented.
- They will commit to learning that has relevance in their lives.
- They are voluntary learners who are self-directed and highly motivated under the right conditions.
- They seek particular kinds of information and experiences to supplement what they already know.

In short....

Adults seek information and learning they can use to navigate their lives.



FAITH DEVELOPMENT

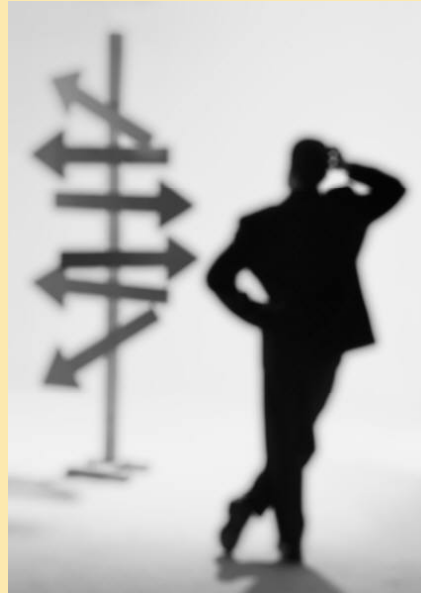


A special
kind of adult
learning

Faith Development Experiences

- Nurture you as a spiritual being
- Help to sustain you through a challenging time
- Lead you to feel more “at home” in the universe, more connected with all that is
- Help you to identify a way you are called to bring more love and justice into the world
- Help you to understand more deeply what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist

Considering a Needs Assessment Survey?



Maybe down the line, but not right away!

There are more helpful ways to assess program needs.

Instead, do an inventory.

- What programs are you currently offering?
Don't forget small groups, support groups, social action groups, forums, hiking groups, lunch gatherings, and so on.
- What is working? What needs are being met?
- What needs some re-thinking?
- What gaps do you see?

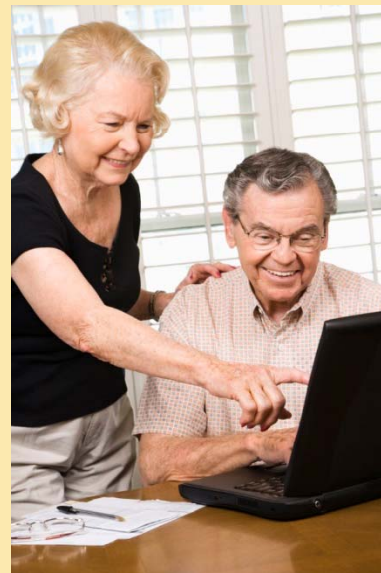
And then, talk with people. All kinds of people.

Your group of wise people will develop new lenses by looking at the congregation, the community, and the current programming. You can guide them to assess by asking good questions, and by listening.



Then, a survey.

The assessment will prepare you to formulate a survey... and to understand its results. Be sure to offer both paper forms and an online option.



Keep the Survey Simple

I would like to...

- ☐ Know more about UUism
- ☐ Connect with other people
- ☐ Explore, deepen, and nurture my sense of spirituality
- ☐ Engage deep religious or ethical questions
- ☐ Other _____

The best times for me are _____

Discuss your Findings

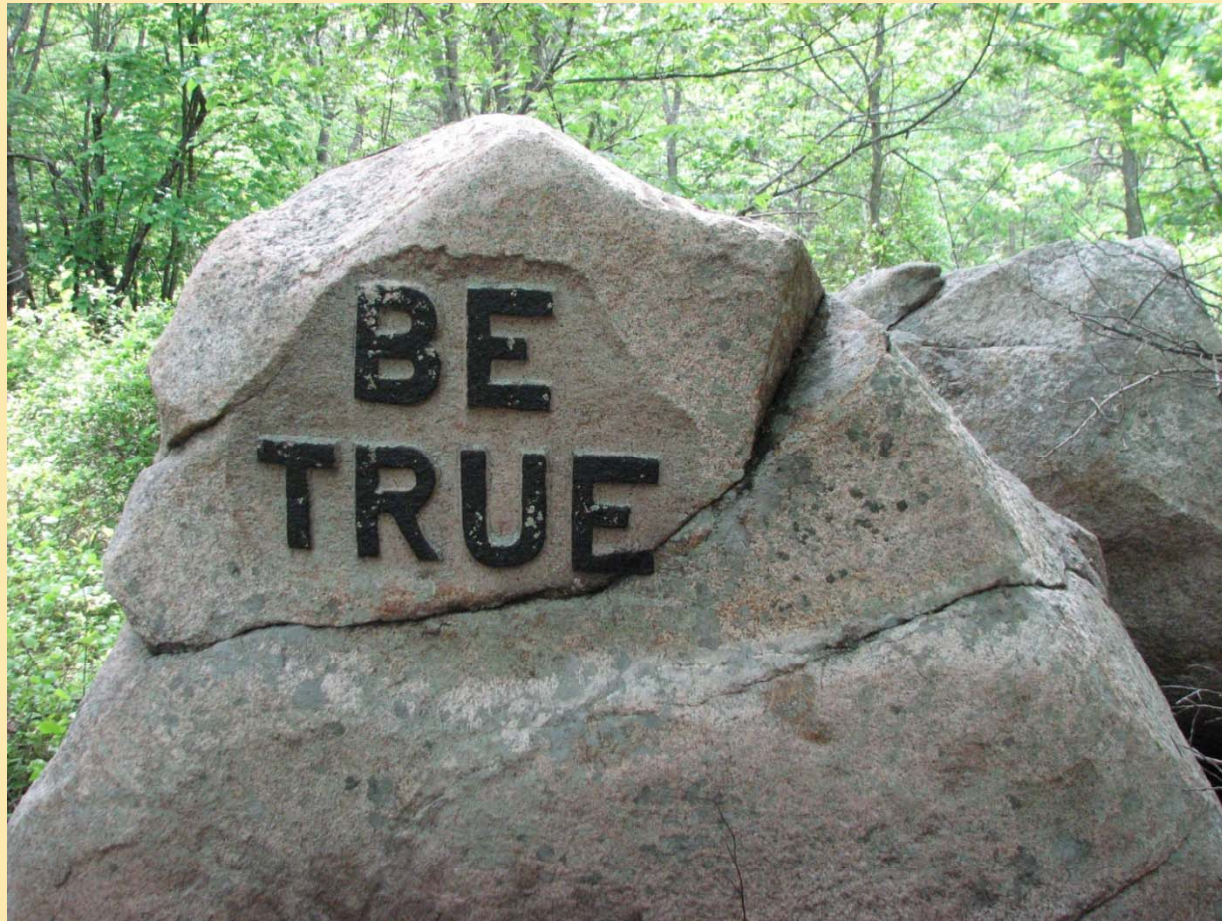
Make a Plan

- What are you uniquely positioned to offer (paying attention to congregational mission)?
- What do you have the capacity to offer that would be supported by your community?
- What one or two things could you do well... to get started?

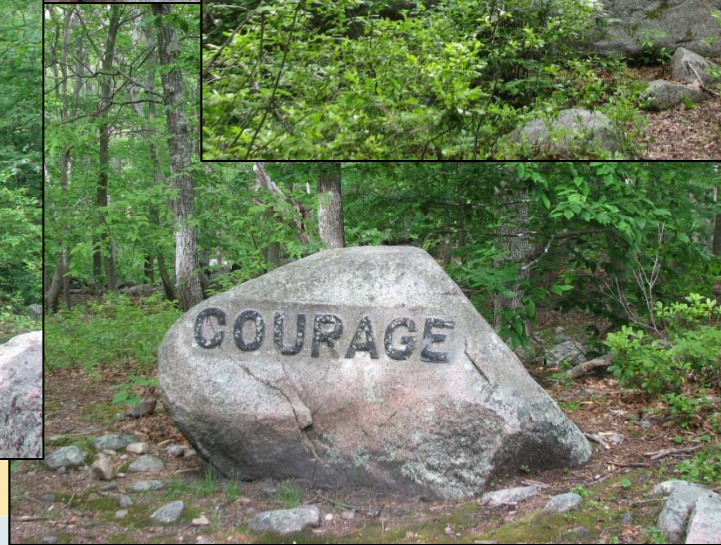
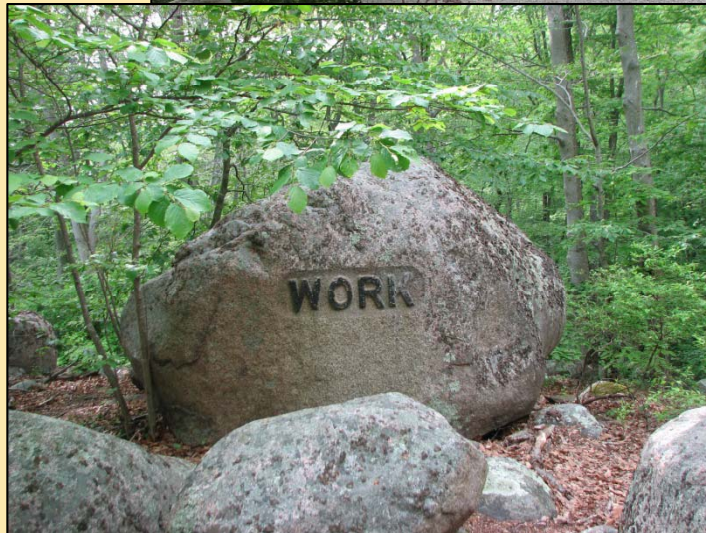
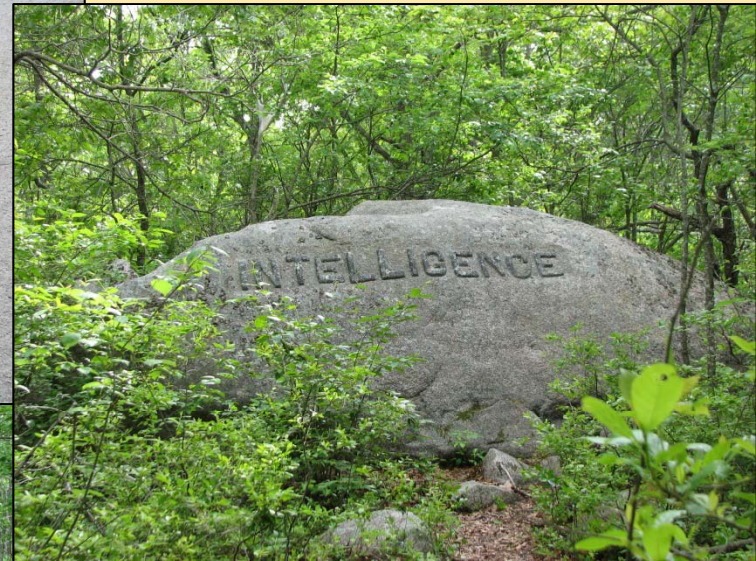
Program Structure

- Depends on the amount of staffing in the congregation and its governance structure.
- Depends on the interest and capacity of lay and professional leaders.
- Program should be overseen by people who have the entire congregation in mind. Rather than a “representative” committee, form a committee of people who (a) collectively represent a broad cross-section and (b) each see themselves as leaders, accountable to the whole congregation.

A Word about Authority and Responsibility



Recruit, Train & SUPPORT Volunteers



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

gforsythvail@uua.org



Gathering at General Assembly Providence, RI

Saturday, 3:30-4:30 pm

Dunkin Donuts Ctr. Media Room

*All those involved in planning
and delivering adult programming
are welcome!*

Adult Religious Education Renaissance Module

Module Guide:

www.uua.org/documents/lfd/lldrguide_adultfaith.pdf

Email: renaissance@uua.org

Adult-RE email list:

<http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/adult-re>

FDO summer webinars

Wed. June 25, 6 pm*

“Live from Providence” GA for Religious Educators

Tues. July 22, 1 pm*; Wed. July 23, 9 pm*

Full Week Faith with Karen Bellavance-Grace

Tues. Aug. 26, 1 pm*; Wed. Aug. 27, 9 pm*

The New DRE with Pat Infante

- all times Eastern / religiouseducation@uua.org

Website: www.uua.org/re/teachers/webinars

Email with Questions

gforsythvail@uua.org