

# Welcome to the Faith Development Office Webinar



Please mute your microphone  
and turn off your camera.

Find the Meeting Chat box and  
introduce yourself.



# Housekeeping

Audio problem? Mute audio on your computer, and then call in by phone.

We'll have time for questions at the end.

Recorded webinar, slides and transcript  
will be posted online:

**[www.uua.org/re/teachers/webinars](http://www.uua.org/re/teachers/webinars)**





**Welcome !**

**How to Create  
a Faith-Sensitive  
*Our Whole Lives* Program**

**January 2016**



## **Presenters**

**Melanie Davis, PhD**

UUA OWL Program Associate; Bedminster, NJ

**Amy Johnson, LICSW**

United Church of Christ OWL Coordinator;  
Federal Way, WA

## **Host**

**Susan Lawrence**

UUA Faith Development Office

## **Tech Support**

**Kareem Watson**

UUA Faith Development Office





“Holy Midwife” by Barbara Marian, in *Fragments of Your Ancient Name* by Joyce Rupp



# Agenda

- What brings you here today?
- Group Covenant
- Sexuality and Our Faith
- Hopes/Concerns about Opening Up Your Program
- Frame of Reference
- Facts, Opinions, and Values
- Scenarios
- Facilitator Training
- Creating a Welcoming Space
- Questions/Discussion
- Closing Words
- Upcoming Webinars & Archived Webinars



# What brings you here today?

Please type in the Chat Box:

- Your role in your congregation or organization
- What interested you in this webinar





# Group Covenant

- Personal responsibility
- Right to skip or pass
- All beliefs are honored
- Mutual respect





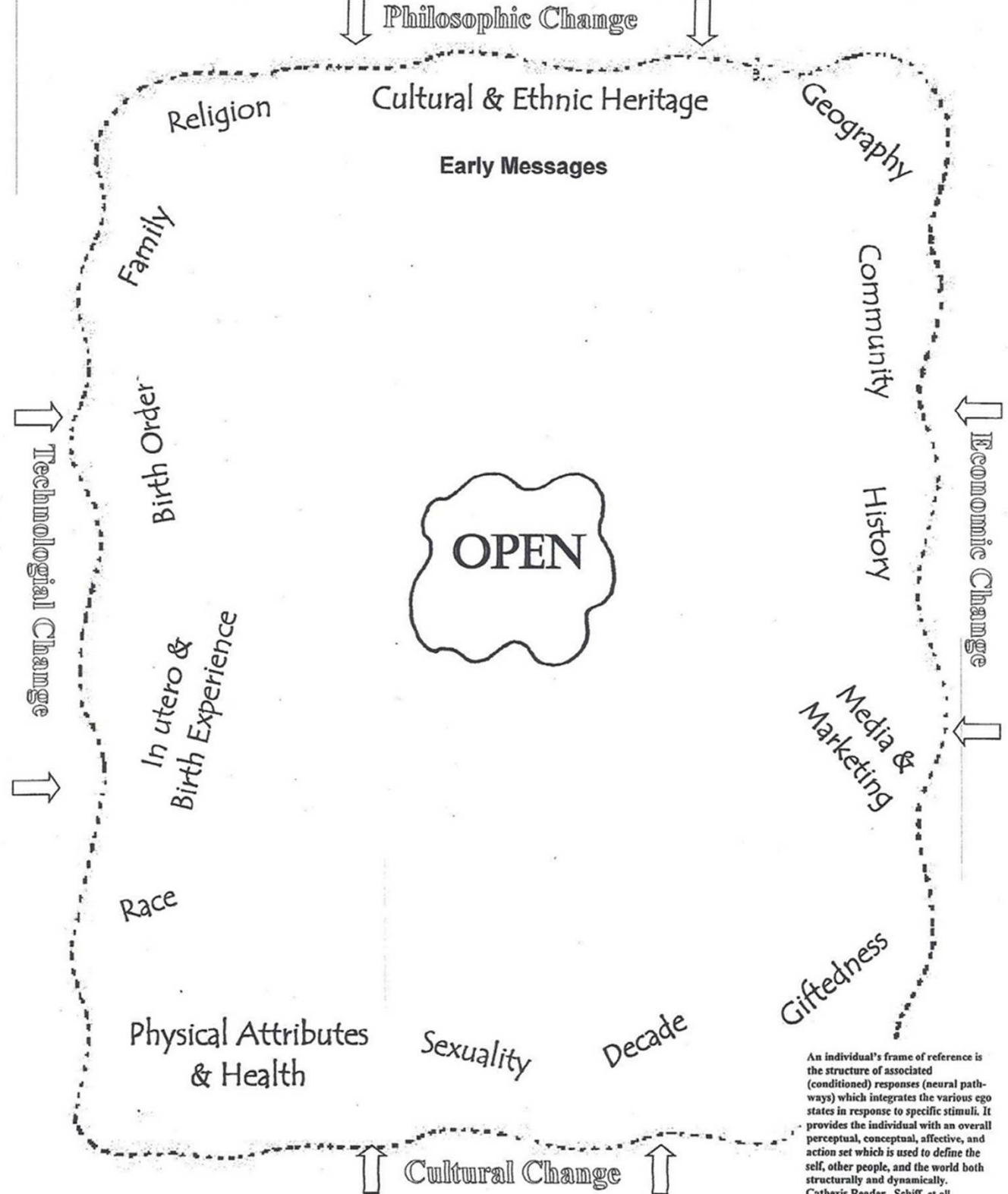
# Sexuality and Our Faith





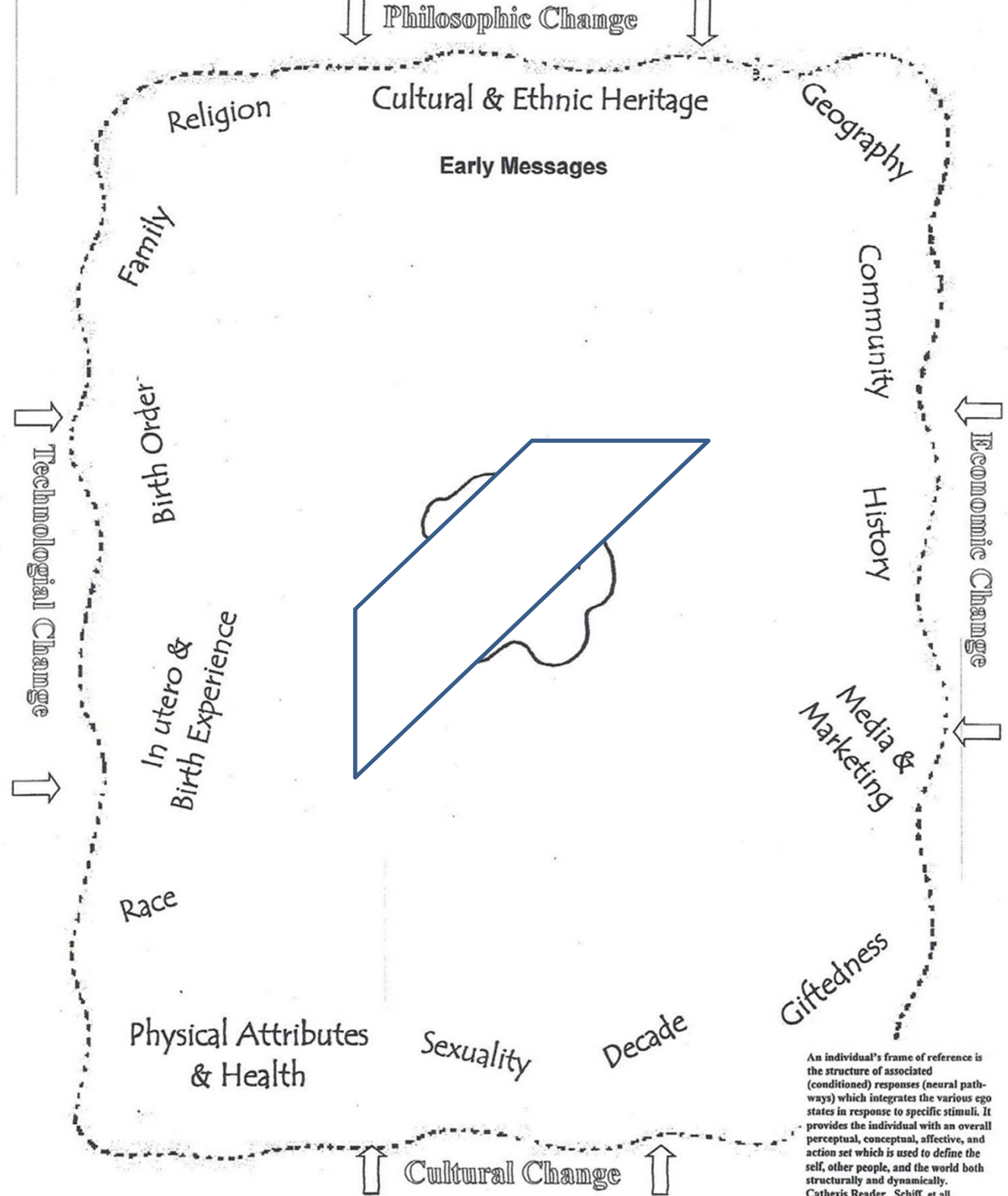
**Whooooo has hopes or concerns???**

# Frame Of Reference

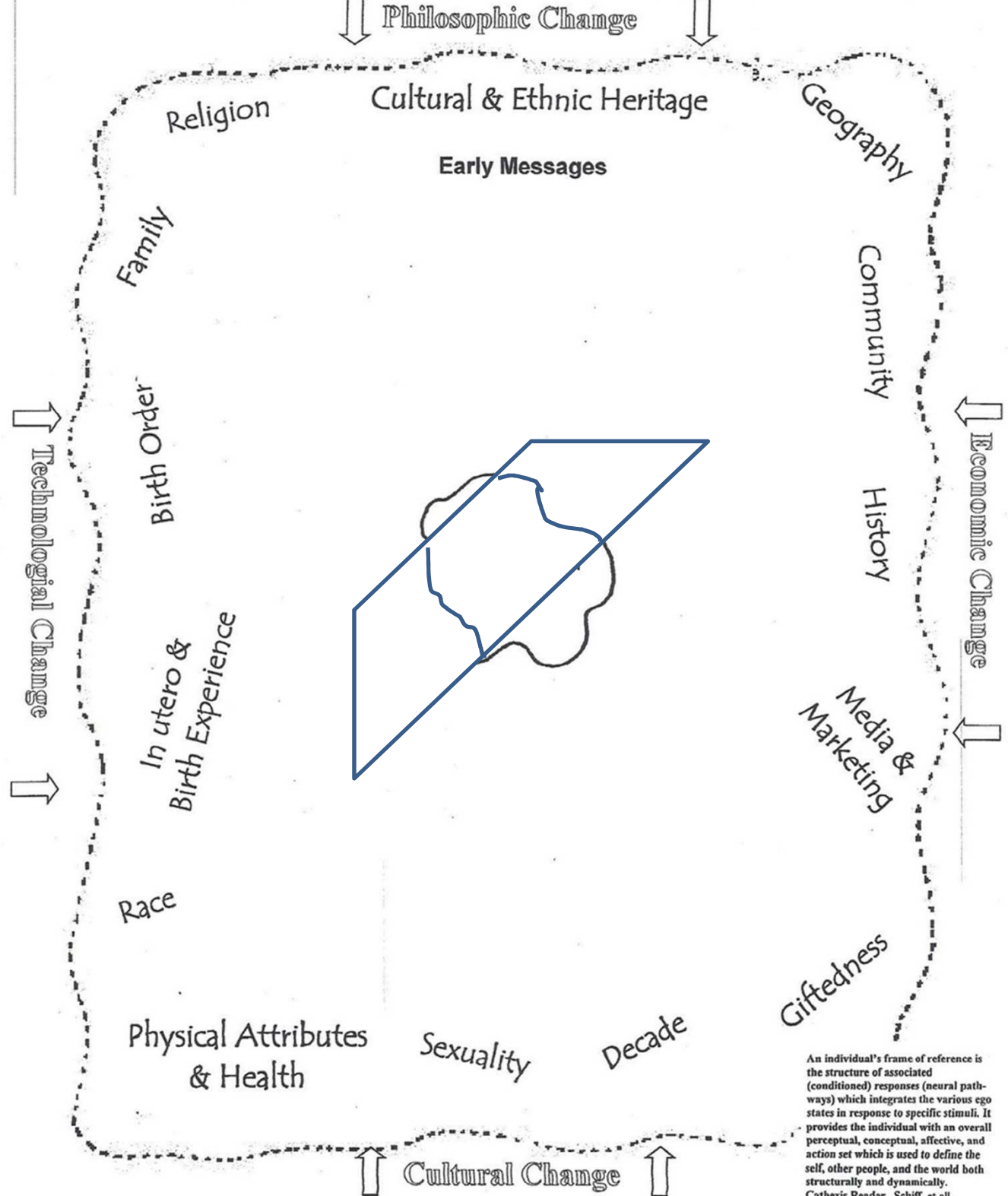




# Frame Of Reference



# Frame Of Reference





# Facts, Opinions & Values



Al Vernacchio, author of *For Goodness Sex* and relationship workshop contributor to OWL for Grades 7-9





# Scenario 1

Jayden and Kai are in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and friends. One day, when they are hanging out at Kai's house after school watching silly videos online, Jayden tells Kai that a friend sent a link for them to check out. They follow the link, which is for a pornographic video site. It's against Jayden's religion to view any pictures of naked people. Jayden said it's especially true before marriage.

What are the facts, opinions, and values in this scenario?



## Scenario 2

Sofia and Luciana, 8<sup>th</sup> graders, are talking. Sofia says, “Girls don’t masturbate.” Luciana says, “Yes they do -- it’s a great way to relax and release sexual buildup. Plus, it’s a private way have sexual pleasure without the risk of pregnancy or sexually transmitted infection. When you are ready for sex, masturbation helps you learn how you like to be touched, so you can show a partner how to please you.”

What are the facts, opinions, and values in this scenario?



## Scenario 3



Ishiko is 17 and pregnant and thinks she wants to get an abortion. She decides to talk to some friends and family about her decision. Jun, her partner, agrees with her decision. He feels they are both too young to get married, and he has a scholarship to go to college next year. Kazuko, Ishiko's older sister, who became pregnant as a teen, was too afraid to talk to her parents, and had an abortion, which she now regrets. She feels guilty a lot and thinks Ishiko shouldn't have the abortion. She's also newly married and afraid she will have trouble getting pregnant because she's had an abortion.

What are the facts, opinions, and values in this scenario?





# Facilitator Training





# Creating a Welcoming Space





# Problem Solving: Scenario 1

You are running a junior high OWL group, and in the question box, someone asks, “My best friend is Christian, and she says that people who are LGBTQ are choosing a lifestyle of sin, and they are going to hell. How do I talk to her about this?”

How can you answer this question in a manner that is sensitive both to LGBTQ individuals and to people who share the friend’s beliefs?





## Problem Solving: Scenario 2

A parent from a conservative non-Christian religion wants their child to participate in the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade Our Whole Lives/Sexuality and Our Faith program. The parent is concerned because their family does not believe their child should see images of anyone naked.

Using the OWL values, how do you respond?



# Problem Solving: Scenario 3

At parent orientation, when the group is creating a covenant/agreements, someone suggests being non-judgmental. Another parent objects, saying, “Well, I have some pretty strong beliefs about openness in relationships, orientation, and identity. If someone thinks differently, I’ll have a hard time not being judgmental.”

How do you respond?



# Problem Solving: Scenario 4

One person who came to Parent Orientation gave enthusiastic permission for their child to attend Our Whole Lives. The child's other parent, who missed the orientation, pulls you aside one day and asks, "How you can be so affirming of different sexual orientations when the Bible clearly says that is not OK?"

What do you do?



# Questions? Puzzles?







# Closing Words

Excerpt from *Fluent in Faith: A Unitarian  
Universalist Embrace of Religious  
Language*

by Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar



# Upcoming Webinars

## Meet Black Lives of UU

presented by Kenny Wiley, member of BLUU Organizing Collective, Senior Editor, *UU World* Magazine; and Director of Faith Formation at Prairie UU Church (Denver, CO)

Tues., 1/24, 1 pm Eastern

Wed., 1/25, 9pm Eastern

[www.uua.org/re/teachers/webinars](http://www.uua.org/re/teachers/webinars)



Thanks for attending this  
Faith Development Office webinar.

This webinar has been recorded  
and will be posted online at  
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