

Adult Faith Formation

Renaissance Module Handbook



Session Three Handouts

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Handout 3.1a: Congregational Mission and Adult Faith Formation

Prework

Respond to the following questions prior to Session Three.

To what does your congregation devote resources — volunteer time, staff time, messaging and/or money?

Locate your Congregation's Mission Statement

The mission statement is often on an obscure Governance page on your website. You may use an Adult Faith Formation Team Mission statement if the former is not available.

How does this mission align with what your congregation devotes resources—volunteer time, staff time, and/or money?

How does this mission reflect the congregational community? The culture of the larger community? Where is it aligned and where are there gaps?

Ideally, how does Adult Faith Formation carry out the congregation's mission? Be specific in terms of offerings as well as general overview.

The Mission Statement is where you are headed, not where you are. If your congregation's mission statement can work as direction for your Adult Faith Formation, use it. If you have a specific Adult Faith Formation Mission statement, you may prefer to use that one. Write it here.

Mission statements that can be repeated by memory are best. **(This question appears on the UUA's Forum Discussion Page.)**

Handout 3.1b: Guiding Questions to Discern Mission

Use your answers to the questions in the previous exercise for your group discussion on other participant's mission statements.

This in-session exercise begins with each person sharing their mission statement aloud with the group

- I can see where you are going here on the vision, tell me where you are stuck?
- What ways do you organize the offerings now...does attendance or leadership for those offerings help you clarify the vision a bit?
- I am reading it this way...describe that...is that what you mean?
- Tell me what implementing this vision looks like specifically in terms of offering?
- Before checking out, invite everyone to consider whether they have any follow-up questions about what they heard.

Handout 3.2: Space Between the Logs

Prework: Consider answers prior to the pandemic.

- Where, in your Adult Faith Formation role, do you notice that congregational engagements are too tightly packed together?

- Where have you packed learning opportunities too tightly? Why?

In-Session Activity: Respond Through Drawing and Words

After watching the video Space Between the Logs in-session, we will use this space or drawing paper during the session to draw for five minutes to respond graphically to what you heard Dr. Hicks offer.

Stop here. Answer the following question after drawing.

In Session Reflection When or where have you seen spaciousness that allows for transformation in *your* congregation?

Handout 3.3: Key Points, Next Steps, Gifts and Limitations

These Prewrite answers will be shared in the session:

Limits

The two most significant limits that need addressing in my congregation in order to provide a more substantial faith formation action plan are:

- 1.
- 2.

Gifts

Note two administrative gifts in your congregation that you will engage in the coming year to support Adult Faith formation:

- 1.
- 2.

In-Session: Share and Problem Solve in Your Project Group

In your group, share the limits and gifts, inviting suggestions for next steps. Time may allow for only one issue to be addressed by your group.

You may want to engage the congregation's Adult Faith Formation team in solving the following issues:

- How many offerings can your congregation actually support, in terms of volunteers, calendar, building space, budget, and participants? How do you determine that? What are options to work around one or two of these limits?
- What times of the week are available? When are people likely to come? Does this change with online offerings?
- Is there a formal application process, structure, or timeline?
- Who decides what learning opportunities are offered?
- How is the overall program supported? Who is responsible for logistics? Advertising? Supporting volunteers? Dealing with difficult situations if they arise?

Handout 3.5a: Final Project Directions

A Congregational Adult Faith Formation Action Plan

Background

The final project is designed to provide a congregational “action plan” for designing an adult faith formation program for your congregation. It is meant to include offerings that you, as an implementer, may be responsible for, *and* programs offered by others. The final project is meant to be directed to the congregant answering the question:

- “Could you share what adult faith formation offerings are available here?”

Project

Each participant will present their congregational Adult Faith Formation program in some written form: mock website, handout, congregational email, newsletter article. Find [two examples here](#). Your plan should utilize the rubric developed throughout the module which audits offerings/programs for desired learning characteristics and possible additions in the coming year (or years). Although the project itself is specific to your congregation, the final project presentation must include:

- a piece of advice/problem solving that you received from other project group members
- a specific challenge you had to overcome; and
- a specific addition to your plan that excites you.

Complete Your Rubric

You will do this primarily on your own time, though there is some in-session opportunity to add to it.

Group Work

You will meet in project groups across sessions to ask questions and provide suggestions to each other. Keep track of at least one idea to share in your presentation.

Share Your Plan on the Collaborative Slides

Post your Final Project on the [Shared Collaborative Slides](#) folder the night before the last session. This allows the Facilitators to group the slides making for easy access during the session. Contact facilitators if you need assistance. The facilitators will give you Zoom “screen sharing” permission so that you can present your plan and then hand it off to the next presenter in your group.

Timing

Your Action Plan presentation is up to 4 mins, with one minute to share the 3 additional learnings. There will be one-two minutes for the group to ask questions or give feedback including the Facilitators. A timer will sound at the end of 4 minutes, and if necessary again at the end of seven minutes.

Handout 3.5b: New Additions and Possible Challenges

Prewrite

Answer the following questions here and when you collaborate in your project groups in-session.

What is one new planned addition and why it is especially important?

What is one challenge that you think will need to be addressed before implementation and how might it be addressed?

Present your Congregational Rubric to your Project Group. Share the responses to the questions above and ask the following. Take notes since this specific help you receive from your group will be included in your final presentation.

What is missing?

What challenges remain?