

Adult Faith Formation

Renaissance Module Handbook



Session Four Handouts

- 4.1: Resources for Unitarian Universalist Adult Faith Formation
- 4.2: Curating Adult Faith Formation
- 4.3: Technological Audit for You and Your Congregation
- 4.4: Adapting Learning to an Online Environment

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Handout 4.2: Curating Adult Faith Formation

To make this vision of a “lifelong network” of religious content and experiences a reality, the role of the leader in faith formation is shifting from providing religious content and offerings to curating religious content and experiences for all ages. We are all familiar with curating and curation—museum curators collect art and artifacts and identify the most relevant or important to be displayed in an exhibit for the public. Museum curators are subject-matter experts that guide an organization’s overall art collection.

A content curator is someone who continually finds, groups, organizes, and shares the best and most relevant content on a specific subject to match the needs of a specific audience. Content curators can provide a personalized, qualified selection of the best and most relevant content and resources available. They do not create more content but make sense of all the content that others are creating.

Curation is an evolving idea that addresses two parallel trends: the explosive growth in information, and our need to be able to find information in coherent, reasonably contextual groupings.

— John Roberto, Faith Formation 2020

These are links to other Adult Faith Formation offerings from non-UU sources, familiar to the authors and that have been used in UU congregations. [The LifeLong Faith](#) website also offers other, all Christian. Many of these resources/perspectives are unavailable in our local community:

- Pendle Hill
- Smithsonian
- Parent Education Programs (PEP)
- Center for Courage and Renewal (Parker Palmer)
- EmbraceRace
- Insight Meditation Center of Washington
- Raising Race Conscious Children

Pework

If you have offered a curated adult faith formation offering, what did it require of you or your team to make available to your congregants? Share the name and any learnings that would be applicable to the group.

Additional resources for you to read and consider:

- [Reimagining the \[Curated\] Resources](#)
- [Becoming a Faith Formation Curator](#)

Handout 4.3: Technological Audit for You and Your Congregation

(note all the descriptions are from the websites of the companies) and they do not have quotation marks.

Application Rate: 3-High, 2-Med, 1-Low	Personal Competency	Congregational Competency	Does Congregation Need to Skill Up?	Do I need to Skill Up?
Canva a tool that makes it possible to design anything and publish anywhere with its user-friendly drag and drop tool and thousands of customizable templates. Over 400 million designs from more than 10 million users across 179 countries have been created with Canva so far.				
Constant Contact (or other email newsletter systems)				
Creative Commons a nonprofit organization that helps overcome legal obstacles to the sharing of knowledge and creativity to address the world's pressing challenges. In order to achieve their mission, they develop technology like CC Search that makes openly licensed material easier to discover and use.				
Database Systems				
Doodle Poll or other scheduling applications				

Application Rate: 3-High, 2-Med, 1-Low	Personal Competency	Congregational Competency	Does Congregation Need to Skill Up?	Do I need to Skill Up?
Emodo and other Learning Management System applications allows your whole community to learn together from anywhere with all-in -one LMS, communication, collaboration, and Zoom video conferencing tools.				
Edpuzzle is a teaching tool used to place interactive content into pre-existing videos from a variety of sources, such as TED or YouTube, or into videos you have made.				
Email				
Google applications				
iMovie allows iPhone and Apple computer users to record and edit high-definition video to publish directly to YouTube or send via MMS and e-mail. There are many other competitors.				
Miro is an online collaborative whiteboard platform to bring groups together, anytime, anywhere.				
Padlet a simple Online Bulletin Board.				
Projectors are very useful for making online content more easily visible/useable for in-person adult faith formation.				

Application Rate: 3-High, 2-Med, 1-Low	Personal Competency	Congregational Competency	Does Congregation Need to Skill Up?	Do I need to Skill Up?
Sign Up Genius is an online software tool for volunteer management and event planning. Save time with sign-up sheets and schedules.				
Social Media: Facebook , Twitter , Instagram				
Spotify is a digital music, podcast, and video streaming service that gives you access to millions of songs and other content from artists all over the world. Apple Music is similar.				
YouTube or Vimeo are digital video, music, and podcast platforms (owned by Google).				
Zoom is an online meeting platform.				

Handout 4.4: Adapting Learning to an Online Environment

This is an informational handout detailing the considerations for adapting adult faith formation for online use. Some of this information is covered by the in-session Jeopardy game we will play.

Facilitation

Record a session. After the sessions start, record one session (with participant's permission) as a training tool. Everyone is surprised the first time by the difference you see versus how you thought it was going. Bonus: you can check on your background too.

Co-facilitators are necessary for online learning. Attending to the material, noting participant non-verbal cues and reading the chat are too challenging for one facilitator to do well.

Training is mandatory, including reviewing ways to adapt the curriculum, but also for creating a community of learners and practicing technology. And a frank conversation of how co-facilitators will work together.

Setting up Zoom Background space may be more challenging than setting up a room in your congregation and certainly more determinative of success. Facilitators need to be mindful not only of the technology issues, but also their background space to cut down on distraction: lighting, sound, interruptions, turning off notifications, etc.

Expectations Expect the unexpected and remain flexible.

Technology

Zoom is the most popular online meeting platform. You can hold meetings for up to 40 minutes for free and attend any meeting of any duration for free. It is a relatively easy and stable platform.

Internet Speed of Facilitator's Home Network. This is often an overlooked ingredient in the working and clear transmission of a Zoom signal over a class period. <https://testmy.net/hoststats/speednet>

Using technology to **help communicate and register participants** for your class is worth investing time in.

Google Suite offers a few different applications that can serve as a free online document storage system and other applications. It does not require you to have a Google email address, though it's less confusing to understand it if you do.

Skill up on applications/software/equipment necessary for online learning: What are technologies or applications that support online learning? You are likely to need a lot of these, or ones like them, to support online learning. How will you learn and teach them? Canva, projectors, SignupGenius, ConstantContact, Creative Commons, Google, Edmodo, Edpuzzle, Padlet, Miro, Doodle Poll, Facebook Live, Spotify, YouTube.

Watching video on Zoom requires at least 1.5Mbps uplink and downlink for all participants; play video at full screen and Clicking on the "optimize video share" before sharing screen.

Administrative

Discern whether the curriculum meets your objective before trying to adapt it. What does it check off in the Action Plan? Does the offering meet the mission? If not, is there something close? Be mindful of adapting your curriculum simply to offer something.

Partnering with another congregation can provide more possibilities for taking a wider variety of classes.

Figure out an LMS that is user-friendly for you, facilitators, and congregants.

Developing an Adult Faith Formation team or group of facilitators to help adapt curriculum is preferred.

Have at least two persons to help adapt the curriculum. It is often easiest for two or more persons to work collaboratively through a digital document platform, such as Google Docs. Having someone else read it for clarity is a treasure!

Resources

Search online for an array of curriculum by subject area. Google the curriculum titles and find another religious professional who has already offered it. The offering doesn't have to be online-specific but requesting their written lesson plans reduces the amount of writing you have to do.

Use the UUA website to research curricula.

Research local events, classes, and activities using the internet or local bulletin boards.

Curriculum Adaptation

Zoom Fatigue – Reduce sessions to 60-90 mins.

Flipped Classroom – Asynchronous vs synchronous learning?

Breakout groups & other Zoom tools can build community in a group of learners

Engage a diversity of learning activities: Think-Pair-Share; Show Not Tell; Story Circle; The Jigsaw Method; Swapsie; Reading Against the Grain and Gallery Walk [word cloud](#) are all learning strategies that help accomplish this.

Reviewing and revising learning objectives is the place to start adapting -- it can be your guide.

Engage content in chunks: Group discussions should run no longer than 15 minutes; learning activities can run up to 25.

Establish a sense of relationality and **develop a community of learners**

Focus on Active learning: This is not a lecture classroom online; it is an active learning classroom online. Mix video, lecture, discussion groups, creative activities, reflection, research, collaboration, hands-on and fun!

Read more

- [A Step By Step Guide](#)
- [Nine Strategies for Effective Online Teaching](#)
- [Active Learning for your Online Classroom](#)