Tapestry of Faith

- The UUA’s new series of programs and resources for all ages that nurture Unitarian Universalist identity, spiritual growth, a transforming faith, and vital communities of justice and love.
Tapestry of Faith

Faith Development curricula and other resources for all ages that nurture

- UU identity,
- spiritual growth
- a transforming faith, and
- vital communities of justice and love.
What UUs want from Tapestry

- UU Identity
- Own Faith
- Lived Values
- Religious Home
- World Religions
- Life Skills
- Spiritual Life

UU Identity

Religious Home

World Religions

Life Skills

Spiritual Life

Own Faith

Lived Values
Tapestry of Faith is focused on outcomes including . . .
The Four Strands

- Are outcomes

- Are *integrated* into all Tapestry of Faith programs
Content is a valuable tool more than an ultimate goal

- Paulo Freire: not the banking method of education, but education for freedom and empowerment to change the world
- Maria Harris: fashion a people
- Channing: not a definite amount of knowledge, but a fervent love of truth
Curricula draw from and are grounded in:

- Principles and Sources
- UU History and Traditions
- Universalist faith, hope, love
- Unitarian freedom, reason, tolerance
- Participation in Faith Community
Examples of UU Identity Development for all Ages

- Wonderful Welcome (K-1)
- Faithful Journeys (Gr. 2-3)
- Toolbox of Faith (Gr. 4-5)
- Riddle and Mystery (Gr. 6)
- Building Bridges (Gr. 8-9)
- Place of Wholeness (H.S.)
- Resistance and Transformation: UU Social Justice History (Adult)
Spiritual Development: The Longing of the Soul

- Feelings of wonder, awe, mystery, holy
- Connection to God, ultimate, transcendence
- Sense of being part of something larger
- Spiritual mindfulness, spiritual practices
- Worship, rituals, sacred texts
Spiritual Tidbits from Tapestry

- In *Creating Home*, Gr. K-1 walk the labyrinth
- In several curricula, children share joys and sorrows every session
- All sessions begin & end with worship ritual
- In *Spirit in Practice*, participants engage in moving meditation, prayer beads, & other spiritual practices
- Leaders are offered spiritual preparation before every session.
Ethical Development: Becoming Our Best Selves

Curricula support and encourage:

- Living Our Values and Principles
- Moral basis for right and wrong
- Agency: Making the World a Better Place
- Right Relationship
- Good Citizenship of Wider Communities
- Stewardship of Religious Community
- Stewardship of the Earth
Examples of Ethical Development

- In *Love Surrounds Us*, Gr. K-1 explore the values in the 7 Principles in Beloved Community
- In *Moral Tales*, Gr. 2-3 explore values and ethical decision making
- In *Windows and Mirrors*, Gr. 4-5 look inward and outward to understand themselves and others
- *Amazing Grace: Exploring Right and Wrong* (Gr. 6)
- *Heeding the Call: Qualities of a Justice-Maker* (Gr. 7-9)
- *Virtue Ethics* (H.S.)
- In *Building the World We Dream About*, participants explore racial/ethnic identity and MC competence
- *What We Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists*
Faith Development: Growing in Faith Together

Making meaning and finding purpose
Acting on values, reflecting on action
Addressing Big Religious Questions
Exploring and articulating theology, philosophy, and beliefs
Know what you set your heart to
Find a sustaining faith in UUism
Four Strands Exercise

- Divide into four groups
- Each group take one outcome:
  - UU Identity
  - Spiritual Development
  - Ethical Development
  - Faith Development
- Hear a story
- Work in small groups to show how that story can be used to further the assigned outcome of your group
Methodology: Stories

- We learn best through stories
- Stories have layers of meaning
- Multigenerational faith communities are grounded in stories—personal stories, communal stories, and stories from the heritage and sources of Unitarian Universalism
- Stories all draw from our sources—including our seventh source: UU history and heritage
Samples of Stories
(from List of Stories from All Programs)

- Anansi and the Pot of Wisdom
- Cathedral of the World
- Belonging: Fannie Barrier Williams
- The Cellist of Sarajevo
- The Fowler and the Quail
- A Hospital Blessing
- Jesus and the Sheep
- And many many more!
Methodology: Praxis

Belonging

Meaning — Action — Reflection — Story
Praxis

- What?
- So what?
- Now what?
Characteristics of Tapestry

- Available free online
- Draws from all six Sources- and adds a seventh, our UU history
- Emphasizes community, interdependence and relationship
- Consistently uses anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multi-cultural lenses
Characteristics of Tapestry

- Family/parent friendly
- Lifespan
- Outcome-focused
- Complete
- Downloadable and adaptable
Characteristics of Tapestry

- Modular – especially youth and adult programs (workshops)
- Searchable – stories and key words
- Out of the Box: Resource for worship, intergen, retreats, leadership training, identity groups, etc.
- Adaptable for different church sizes and methodologies/models
Special Features of Tapestry

- Spiritual Preparation
- Faith in Action
- Taking It Home
- Including All Participants
Children/youth/adults need:

- To learn with their minds, hearts and hands
- To engage in integrated experiences that are anchored by soul-stirring narratives
- To learn faith by doing faith
- To be empowered as knowers, practitioners, and creators of Unitarian Universalism
- To know the transformative power of justice and love
Children/youth/adult programs include:

- Central narratives or core stories
- Activities that engage participants in active, meaningful learning
- Community building
- Faith in Action activities for children, youth, adults and multi-generational groups
- Enrichment materials for teachers/facilitators
- Follow up and outreach activities for families/individuals
- Flexibility for different sizes and models of programming
Other resources to check out

- In Print
  - *Our Whole Lives* (six age levels)
  - *Sexuality and Our Faith* (six age levels)
  - *Toolkit Books*
  - *Coming of Age Handbook*
  - *Bridging Handbook* (in publication)
  - *Family Pages in the UU World*
Other resources to check out

- Online
  - Discussion Guides to Skinner House books
  - Common Read Discussion Guides
- Programs such as
  - Small Group Ministry with Children
  - Small Group Ministry with Youth
  - From the High Hill (elder adults)
- Programs enrichment resources such as
  - Spirituality and the Arts
  - Making Music Live
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Weaving the Fabric of our Faith

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