



# Tapestry of Faith

**Curriculum Renaissance Module**



# Tapestry of Faith

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- *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.*

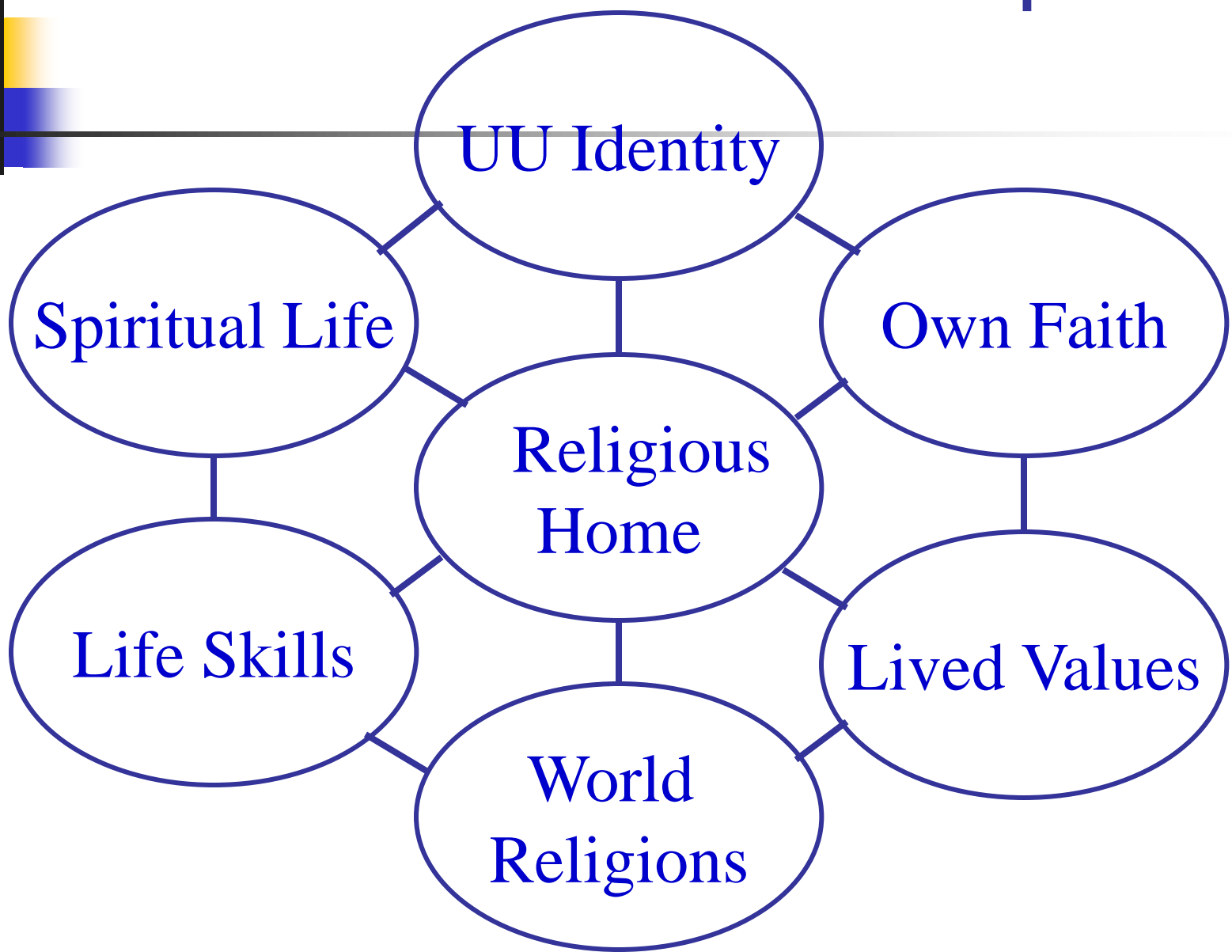


# Tapestry of Faith

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- 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





Tapestry of Faith is

focused on

*outcomes*

including . . .



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UU Identity

Spiritual Growth

Ethical Development

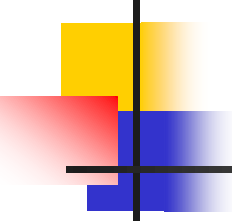
Faith Development



# The Four Strands

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- Are outcomes
- Are *integrated* into all Tapestry of Faith programs



# Content is a valuable tool more than an ultimate goal

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- 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





# UU Identity

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*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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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*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

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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

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- 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

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- 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



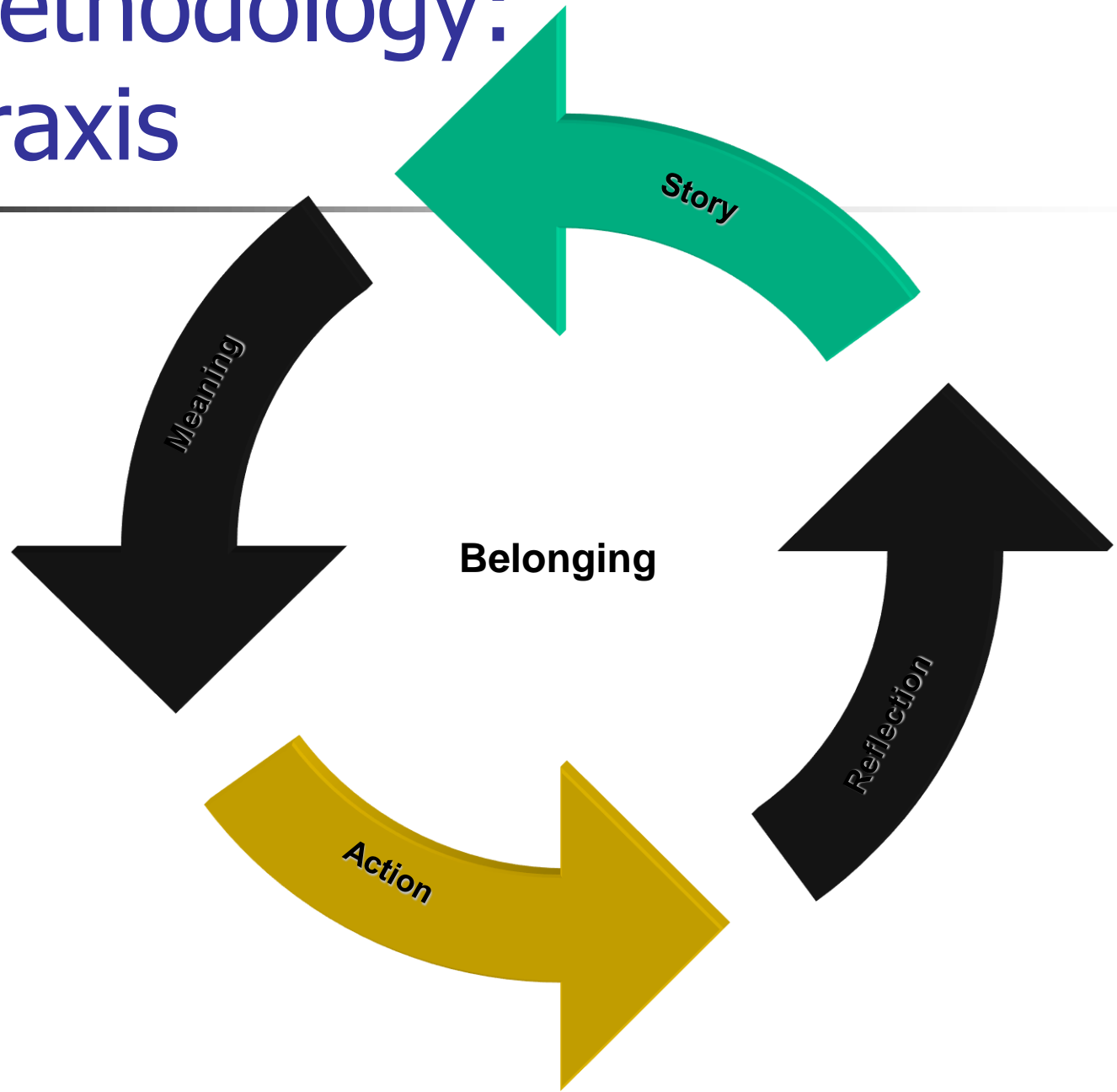
# Samples of Stories

(from [List of Stories from All Programs](#))

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- 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





# Praxis

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- What?
- So what?
- Now what?



# Characteristics of Tapestry

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- 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

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



# Characteristics of Tapestry

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- 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

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- Spiritual Preparation
- Faith in Action
- Taking It Home
- Including All Participants



# Children/youth/adults

## need:

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- 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:

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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



# Faith Development Office Staff

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# Tapestry of Faith



*Weaving the Fabric of our Faith*

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