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
Presenters

Rev. Karin Peterson
Spiritual Director
Author, *Hindsight, Humor, and Hope*

Rev. Bruce Marshall
Chaplain, Riderwood Village, Silver Springs, MD
Author, *Meaning and Spirit in Aging* (working title)

Host

Gail Forsyth-Vail
UUA Adult Programs Director

Tech Support

Pat Kahn
UUA Professional Development Programs Manager
It’s vital that you stay in love, whatever that happens to be. Rather than letting the world pass by.

~ Richard, age 85
Who are the elders in our faith communities?
Baby Boomers
Late 50s to mid 70s

• May resent their move into what has been popularly identified as a less appealing time of life.
• Awareness of the gradual changes in bodies as a result of the aging process.
• If they enjoy leadership, it is a surprise to learn of ways of leading other than being a director or chairperson (i.e. role-modeling and mentorship).
• Have learned to see multiple points of view, work through disputes, make compromises.
• Seek experiences and opportunities to learn.
Silent Generation
Mid 70s and older

- Loss: How do I live with loss?
- Identity: Who am I now, at this stage in my life?
- Meaning: What matters to me? How has that changed, how is it the same?
- Spirit: How do I stay engaged? What gives me life?
- Community: Relationships with friends and family. Risking new friendships.
What are the gifts that older adults bring to your congregation or community?
Older Adult Faith Development Tasks:
Re-evaluate life. Take stock.
Examine long-held beliefs and values.
Older Adult Faith Development Tasks:
Come to terms with one’s own mortality.
Older Adult Faith Development Tasks:
Explore/come to terms with changes in schedule and day-to-day activities due to retirement or changes in responsibilities.
Older Adult Faith Development Tasks:
Face concerns about health, finances, and an appropriate place to live.
Older Adult Faith Development Tasks:
Find ways to belong and be part of communities.
Older Adult Faith Development Tasks: Explore faith questions and spirituality, creating a system of meaning.
Developmental Challenges of Older Adulthood
(adapted from Erik Erikson’s work on human development)

• Struggle with intimacy vs. isolation may be part of relationships with adult children, aging parents, intimate partner(s)
• Generativity vs. stagnation- finding a way to make a mark on the world, contributing
• Integrity vs. despair- reflect on life and have a sense of fulfillment and gratitude
Supporting Older Adults
Questions and Answers
Upcoming Webinar

December 2016

Faith-sensitive Our Whole Lives (OWL) for the Larger Community

Melanie Davis, UUA OWL Program Associate with Amy Johnson, United Church of Christ

Tuesday, December 13, 1 p.m. Eastern
Wednesday, December 14, 9 p.m. Eastern
Thanks for attending the Faith Development Office webinar.

This webinar has been recorded and will be posted online at

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