



The New UU: A Tapestry of Faith Curriculum

Rev. Jonalu Johnstone
First Unitarian Church
Oklahoma City

Tapestry of Faith

- Story-based
- Experience-based: Workshops and Activities
- The 4 Strands
 - Spiritual Development
 - Ethical Development
 - UU Identity Development
 - Faith Development

Why a Membership Class?

- Clarity in a path to membership keeps people from falling through the cracks
- Retention rates are higher for people who have gone through a class
- Low expectations = low commitment;
High expectations = high commitment

Goals of the New UU

- Introduce Unitarian Universalism
- Equip newcomers for a decision about membership
- Provide information about UU worship, theology, history, social justice, religious education, and governance
- Provide resources for further exploration
- Facilitate integration into the congregation

Accessing the New UU

- <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/newuu/index.shtml>
- Or search uua.org for Tapestry of Faith, and select Adult Programs

Restructuring for Your Setting

- Options in the Curriculum
 - Set up as 6 90-minute workshops
 - Adaptations for 60-minute workshops (in Introduction for each workshop)
 - Weekend workshop (under Implementation in Introduction to The New UU)
 - Half-day workshop (also under Implementation)
- Be Creative
- Use as a resource to create your own class
- Frequency -- at least yearly

Practicing Our Theological Approach

- Sentence Starters and Intro Questions
- Bringing in multiple voices
 - Links newcomers with established members
 - Inspires energy and deepens connections
- Cathedral of the World (Workshop 1)

Inviting Panelists

- Outside participation in every workshop
- Introduction (“Before You Start”)
- Select panelists who have a story to tell and relate it well
- How to invite volunteers
- If you don’t use other panels, use Workshop 6, Alternate Activity 2

Workshops

Workshop 1: Theology and Worship

Workshop 2: Where Do We Come From?
Unitarian Universalist Roots.

Workshop 3: How We Grow in Faith &
Philosophy of Religious Education

Workshop 4: Social Justice Philosophy
and Practice.

Workshop 5: How Are Decisions Made?
Governance and Polity.

Workshop 6: Membership.

Rights and Responsibilities of Membership

- Regular attendance at worship
- Voting at congregational meetings
- Making financial contributions
- Contributing time and talent
- Spiritual growth and development

Fitting “The New UU” into Your Existing Program

- Coordination with minister(s), Membership Committee, Lifespan Faith Development or Religious Education, and other
- Inviting participants -- personally and institutionally
- Is the class a requirement?
- Follow-up: New Member Recognition
 - In worship
 - Publications & website
 - Events