

Vision for Lifespan Faith Development

Rev. Helen Zidowecki, March 2012

Opening Words: UUA Lifespan Faith Development Curriculum, Tapestry of Faith goals

We envision children, youth, and adults who:

know that they are lovable beings of infinite worth, imbued with powers of the soul, and obligated to use their gifts, talents, and potentials in the service of life;

affirm that they are part of a Unitarian Universalist religious heritage and community of faith that has value and provides resources for living;

accept that they are responsible for the stewardship and creative transformation of their religious heritage and community of faith;

realize that they are moral agents, capable of making a difference in the lives of other people, challenging structures of social and political oppression, promoting the health and well-being of the planet, acting in the service of diversity, justice and compassion;

recognize the need for community, affirming the importance of families, relationships and connections between and among the generations;

appreciate the value of spiritual practice as a means of deepening faith and integrating beliefs and values with everyday life;

experience hope, joy, mystery, healing, and personal transformation in the midst of life's challenges.

Check-in: How did you arrive at your church?

Topic:

Share your experience or hope for religious education as a transformative power in your life. In the life of your congregation.

What do you have to offer for the transformation to occur?

What commitment can you realistically make?

Check-out/Likes and Wishes: How was the session for you?

Closing: "Moving Toward Multigenerational Religious Education," Helen Zidowecki

Think of a large swimming pool and the water is Small Group Ministry. The adults were the first into the water. They found small group ministry to be a great experience. But if it were such a wonderful thing, why is it for adults only? If small group ministry is going to change our congregations, and our children and youth are our future leaders, we had better involve them in this new way of "doing church".

So ages other than adults ages are being exposed the Small Group Ministry/Covenant Groups. But the pool is still filled primarily with adults. And, you know, there is another thing about age. As the population ages generally, more attention is being given to various stages of adulthood. After all, 18 to 100+ years is quite a range of experiences and challenges!

So now we will have all ages in the pool. But in order to swim, we have to move all around the pool. What happens when we have small group ministry with mixed ages? Or with families? This could get pretty interesting with lots of splashing. Maybe we need to have some lanes set aside for swimming laps, like being with our own age groups. And then we have some open water so that ages can mix. And maybe people can move between the lanes and the open area!
How much FUN!