Small Group Ministry

Session Plan, January 2021

**Lifespan Faith Formation**

This session plan is in support communication around development of Lifespan Faith Formation and the position of Coordinator from Monique McAuliffe.

**Opening Words:**

For over two hundred years Unitarians and Universalists have had Religious Education with a focus on learning to live our values from our many sources noted in our Traditions. We have rich material used over the years for various ages and we have been leaders in educational methodology. Our focus was on increasing knowledge through using our senses, involvement in activities that help others, and the expectation that we were each on a spiritual journey that is unique yet connected with community.

Over twenty years ago, UU congregations gradually changed to using the term Religious Exploration and including the focus of lifespan and intergenerational programming.

So here and now, we – all of us, individually and with our various groupings – have an opportunity to envision and implement a living, dynamic part of our community for all ages. We have gifts to give, voices to be heard, ways to enrich our spiritual journeys, individually and collectively.

**Check-in/Sharing:** How is it with you today?

**Topic and Activity (from Monique)**

*Lifespan Faith Formation* recognizes spiritual, social, ethical and moral development as a lifelong journey. Through opportunities for discovery, learning, reflection, study, and service with peers and across generations people develop a greater sense of belonging and connectedness to themselves, each other, the wider community, the earth, and that which cannot be named.

The *Coordinator for Lifespan Faith Formation (CLFF)* provides dynamic, relevant, and innovative leadership to support members and friends of all ages in the personal journey of spiritual exploration and faith formation, and cultivate a sense of belonging and connectedness rooted in Unitarian Universalist values, principles and theology.

**Questions:**

1. What does faith formation mean to you at this point in your life?
2. How does [this group] meet the spiritual needs of its constituency (e.g. elders, for Seasoned Souls)
3. How could CLFF enhance [this group’s] efforts to meet the current spiritual needs of its constituency?
4. What more would you like to do, with CLFF’s help?
5. What unmet spiritual needs has [this group]  identified for its constituency?

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

**Closing Words:**

“In a word, the great end is to awaken the soul, to excite and cherish spiritual life.”

From “The Great End of Religious Instruction”, William Ellery Channing. Full text is #652 in *Singing the Living Tradition*