

“Spirit of Life” Curriculum Available Online

The Lifespan Faith Development Staff Group of the Unitarian Universalist Association is pleased to announce the online publication of “Spirit of Life,” a nine-workshop curriculum for adults written by renowned minister and author Barbara Hamilton-Holway. The nine workshops of “Spirit of Live” explore spirituality for Unitarian Universalists, using the lyrics of Carolyn McDade's song “Spirit of Live” as a starting point and framework.

“Spirit of Live” is the first electronically published curriculum in the Tapestry of Faith lifespan faith development series. The online publication can be found at <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/spiritlife/index.shtml> or <http://tinyurl.com/yrlwd3>.

More than 200 congregational leaders expressed interest in field testing the “Spirit of Live” program. Fifty congregations have been invited to implement “Spirit of Live” beginning in September, 2007 and provide detailed feedback on both its content and the usability of the new online curriculum. All other congregations are welcome to use the program and submit informal feedback in the 2007-2008 church year. The UUA will revise “Spirit of Live” in 2008 based on this year's feedback.

“With the debut of ‘Spirit of Live’ online, we're now able to offer congregations something they have been asking for and need,” said Judith Frediani, Director of Lifespan Faith Development for the Unitarian Universalist Association. “As the Tapestry of Faith series grows, religious educators will find expanded offerings of free, flexible, and very adaptable programs to fit a variety of congregational settings and needs.”

With “Spirit of Live,” congregations can tailor the workshop length, format, and enrollment to suit their needs and preferences. The online curriculum provides all the background reading, handouts, and other resources a professional religious educator, minister, or congregational volunteer will need to implement any and all of the activities presented.

As with the online curricula for adults, youth, and children in the Tapestry of Faith series that are forthcoming in 2008, congregations may download, customize, print, and duplicate any portion of the “Spirit of Life” programs without paying a fee.

The online launch of “Spirit of Live” represents a pioneering interdisciplinary effort between curriculum and software developers to foster spiritual growth and religious identity in our congregations by providing accessible, integrated, and easy-to-use religious education programs for all ages.