

January 2018

Dear Teacher Development Module participants,

Even as we bundle up against the cold, we have begun planning for our gathering for the Renaissance module during RE Week at Ferry Beach, July 7-13. In the module, we will both attend to our own faith development journeys and learn how to guide volunteers in their development as leaders in the context of Unitarian Universalist religious education/faith formation. The module content will be informed by some of what we have learned in the last few years, providing tools for you to enhance your capacities and skills as a religious education leader, so that you may, in turn, help the volunteers with whom you work grow in their roles.

Before the module, there are some things we would like you to do to prepare yourself. Please do not skip over the preparation; we value the truth that one way we respect one another is to arrive at a learning experience prepared.

1. Read chapters 1, 3, 4 and 6 *The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life*. We would prefer that you read the 20th anniversary edition, published in 2017, but if you already own an earlier edition, that will work as well.
2. Learn something about the broader context in which you are leading faith development programs. The UUA is involved in an association-wide conversation about race and white supremacy culture. As part of that, religious educators are looking at the ways in which our programs and curricula unintentionally reflect a dominant white, middle-class culture. You may have been part of this conversation for some time, or you may be new to it. Regardless of your involvement and awareness thus far, please view these videos so we can all be sure that we have a common experience of some of these conversations:
 - a. Watch the [2014 Sophia Fahs Lecture delivered by Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed](#), found on the website of LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association), in which he examines UU RE curricula in the mid-20th century, using the lenses of race and class. (58:14) This video requires close attention because of the sound quality, as well as the simultaneous reflection on the message shared by Dr Morrison-Reed and what it means for you.
 - b. Watch these two episodes of The VUU, a UU podcast offered by the Church of the Larger Fellowship. The topic is "2017 LREDA Fall Conference Lessons Learned". Please note that the [first episode](#) ends abruptly after about 45 minutes due to a technical problem. The [second episode](#) picks up with a conversation about multicultural centering.

To make it easier to do the preparation work, we are willing to set up a Facebook group to discuss the chapters and videos one at a time in April, May, and June. If five participants let us know that you'd like to be part of this, we'll set it up. This is not required, but we think it will help us all (instructors included) to be mindful about our preparation for this module.

The module has a set of [handouts and resources](#) . Please print or download and save the handouts. Come prepared to take notes and to journal. It is helpful to use an electronic device for this purpose, but paper and pens will work also. While there is Wi-Fi reception in the room where we will be, the local cable company's internet delivery system into Ferry Beach is not as strong as many of us are used to and connectivity is sometimes compromised.

The module will be held during the morning workshop slot Sunday through Friday, with two or three additional hours of small group work by arrangement.

We are looking forward to seeing you in July!

CB (they/them) *and Gail* (she/hers)

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