

Report of the Affiliated Community Minister

Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh

June 17, 2008

Since October, 2005 when the congregation affirmed me as its Affiliated Community Minister, I have been involved in teaching adult programs (at least twice per year) and leading worship at Tapestry (at least twice per year). This has complemented my full-time ministry, which is serving as the Adult Programs Director for the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

Preaching and Worship

In 2007-2008, I led three worship services, one of which was co-led. On September 30, 2007 I preached "Living with Fear, Responding with Hope," on January 6, 2008 I co-preached "Reflections from the Roadside" with Rev. John, and on May 25th I preached "Walking Toward Morning."

Teaching

In 2007-2008 I offered two adult religious education courses. In the fall and early winter, I co-taught the *Spirit of Life: Exploring Spirituality for Unitarian Universalist Adults*, with approximately 30 individuals participating in one or more of the program's workshops. (*Spirit of Life* is one of the courses I developed as UUA Adult Programs Director.)

Additionally, I offered *Owning Your Religious Past*, but cancelled the course due to low enrollment. I attribute the low enrollment not to low interest in adult programs, but rather to high interest in adult programs at Tapestry! At least three other adult programs were going on at the same time that I offered *Owning*—a high percentage of the congregation was already participating in adult programs at that time. That made fewer people available to participate in *Owning Your Religious Past*.

It has been exciting to see adult programs "take off" at Tapestry Congregation in the past year, with more than a dozen courses for adults at a congregation that offered only occasional adult programming in the past. I commend the minister, staff, and board for supporting this blossoming in adult programs—it has truly enriched the experience of Tapestry Congregation for visitor and member alike.

UUA Adult Programs

My work for the UUA started to bear fruit this year. Five curricula that I authored or edited have been published for use in our congregations: the above-mentioned [*Spirit of Life*](#), its sister program [*Spirit in Practice: Ten Workshops on Spirituality for UU Adults*](#), [*Principled Commitment: A Program for Unitarian Universalist Couples*](#), [*Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for Young Adults \(ages 18-35\)*](#), and [*Sexuality and Our Faith: A*](#)

[Companion to Our Whole Lives for Young Adults](#). Many of the other programs I have worked on at various stages will be published in the next two years.

What's Next

July 15th will be my last day as Adult Programs Director for the UUA, and I will finish being your Affiliated Community Minister around the same time. On August 18th I will begin co-ministry with John, serving the Winchester Unitarian Society in Winchester, Massachusetts.

I have felt, from day one, welcomed, affirmed and “enfolded in the warmth of this community” (as the congregation says in worship each week). I am grateful having been affiliated, as a minister and as a friend, over the past three years. I wish you well and know you are heading into a strong future. I offer the benediction I closed with at my last Tapestry service, May 25th:

As we head our separate ways, may you be strengthened for your journeys ahead. Remember to bring with you what you love and believe and stand for. Bring your faith and those enduring principles to which you set your heart. Bring your struggle. I have faith that you have what you need. May it be a rich and glorious path you travel.

In faith and gratitude,

Sarah

Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh