



## Is your congregation considering the Spiritual Leadership Path?



*Faith Forward: From Visitor to Leader* builds leadership for your congregation (and beyond) in a way that is healthy, spiritually deep, and grounded in Unitarian Universalism. The CORE and ADVANCED Paths give participants the orientation, guidance, and encouragement they need to engage and take on service and leadership positions, and the **Spiritual Leadership Path** takes growing leaders to the next level.

**What is “spiritual leadership”?** When you hear the term “spiritual leadership” you might first think about leading worship, or spiritual practice, or pastoral care. It is all those things, but it’s also so much more. It’s a **lens** through which we hope Unitarian Universalists will approach leadership, so that they are leading from a deeper, more spiritually grounded place.

**Who is the Spiritual Leadership Path for?** It is designed for people preparing for leadership, new to leadership, or wanting to deepen their experience as a leader. Participants are invited into **reflection and service** – through which they identify the gifts they bring and **discern** where and how they can best be of service. Participants deepen their faith, their connection to the congregation, and their service to Unitarian Universalism through this program. And finally, they come to see themselves as responsible stewards of the congregation and see their role in the work of building a better world.

**What are the components of the Spiritual Leadership Path?** Identification and Invitation; Initiation (Opening Retreat); Seminars (7 seminars, 3 hours each, facilitated by clergy/staff/lay team); Individual Check-Ins; One-Off Sessions; Next Steps Conversation. These take place over the course of 6 to 10 months, depending on your structure and schedule. Seminar topics include: who are you as a leader, the purpose of church, theological reflection, spiritual leadership, covenant, self-awareness for leaders, leadership in church systems, individual and group discernment, leadership stories/testimonials, and a final leadership reflection from each participant.

**How can the Spiritual Leadership Path support our existing Leadership Development and Nominating Committee structures?** Each time you offer the program, a cohort of people come out of it ready to take on any number of different leadership roles in the congregation and are great candidates for your Nominating or Leadership Development Committee to consider. The Spiritual Leadership Path ensures that these people have the understanding of themselves, the congregation, and Unitarian Universalism that they need to be effective leaders.

Participants in the 2023 Spiritual Leadership Path in Dallas continued on in the following roles: children and adult faith development teacher, chair of the Social Action Council, chair of the Racial Equity Task Force, Board member, Nominating Committee member, Spiritual Leadership Path faculty, youth advisor, Coming of Age advisor, Adult Ministries Council, President of the Women’s Alliance, DRUJMM Board member, chair of the Sunday Giveback Committee, and more.

### How did the program help you grow as a leader? Hear from past participants...

- “It gave me tools and awareness I didn’t have before. (Not sure I can be any more committed!)”
- “Confidence...to make the hard decisions when it is in service of a larger goal.”
- “I have a proven lifetime of successful leadership experience. What this program did was to be sure I knew and carried out UU theological process as well as value choices in any leadership role.”
- “Reflection based on kind challenge in a safe environment. It gave me a new sense of purpose and...confidence.”
- “I feel even more confident in claiming and *proclaiming* the faith.”
- “[It] continues to reveal itself as a source of wisdom and motivating power.”
- “Seeing myself BEING a leader instead of DOING leadership things.”

Contact us at [faithforward@dallasuu.org](mailto:faithforward@dallasuu.org) if you have questions or need additional guidance on how to talk with your congregation about Faith Forward and the Spiritual Leadership Path. We look forward to hearing from you!