



ADULT EDUCATION AT FAIRLAWN

Our overall mandate is to provide offerings that encourage us to explore our faith, make us think, and help us grow.

Our hopes for adult education

- ✦ We offer a safe and welcoming place for everyone to feel comfortable asking the most basic of questions without feeling judged.
- ✦ We provide ways for the congregation and the community to explore spirituality.
- ✦ And we create an environment where questioning of faith is welcomed.

What to expect for adult education offerings

- ✦ Potential to discuss life issues, big and small.
- ✦ Opportunities to explore the Bible in more profound ways that can help us connect the stories to our own lives.
- ✦ Smaller group discussions to get to know one another on a deeper level.
- ✦ Personal development sessions to learn something new.
- ✦ Hopefully to have fun!

What we need from all of you

- ✦ We need your ideas – for topics and presenters, especially Fairlawners who can share their wisdom and knowledge with us.
- ✦ Offer to help us at events.
- ✦ Help us advertise our events.
- ✦ Bring your friends and neighbours to our events.
- ✦ And give us feedback – anytime.

Coming up this fall

- ✦ October 25th – a workshop on Change Management
- ✦ November 2, 16 and 23 – the Exodus series – Sundays before church
- ✦ November 5 – Faith Stories. A multi-faith panel and our big community-wide event

Your Adult Education Team: Doug Crozier, Kathryn Cullen, Rebecca Cumming, Amanda Hancox, Robin Harkness, Rosemary Pryde, James Rego, Patti Smith and Barb Steep.

Questions? Ideas? Would you like to help? Contact Rosemary Pryde at rpryde@rogers.com or 416-484-8373.

IDEAS FROM THE GROUP

Those attending this dialogue were asked to think about two questions and provide their ideas. Their work is noted below.

Question One

What kinds of adult education events would you like to attend? Is there a particular topic that interests you?

Ideas:

- Faith and capitalism
- Talking about other religions
- Myths and parables etc. of the Bible and across other religions – similarities perhaps
- Dying with dignity and the right to die
- Small group post-sermon discussions each week following Sunday services
- Small group formats for discussions
- Overcoming our reticence to talk about religion and faith with others
- Parenting in multi faith families
- Relating Bible stories to our own lives
- Losses through aging
- The non-observant spouse
- What happens when one dies?
- The source of life
- Challenging accepted wisdom in matters of faith

Question Two

What kinds of adult education events could we offer that you would want to invite a friend or neighbor to, especially one who is not a churchgoer?

Ideas:

Note: Some of the ideas from question one also apply to this question and are repeated here.

- Faith and capitalism
- Talking about other religions
- Dying with dignity and the right to die
- Parenting in multi faith families
- Losses through aging
- What happens when one dies?
- Challenging accepted wisdom in matters of faith

Other ideas:

Note: not all of these ideas could be used for an adult education event but are included here so that we capture them. Those with an asterisk will be given to the appropriate Council for follow-up.

- Finding out what is attractive about special Sunday services such as Christmas, Easter, Music Sundays so that we can translate that specialness to 'regular' Sundays and increase attendance on those Sundays*
- Sharing your values with non observant adult children
- Religious aspects of current events
- Voices of moderation in the face of extremism
- Mental health and the impact on others
- Faith in your everyday life – series reprise/updated
- Using the Sanctuary as a weekday place of contemplation*