

Congregational History as Lay Ministry
Southwest Unitarian Universalist Spring 2000 Conference:
29 April, First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio
Dr. Barbara Coeyman
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Outline of Workshop

I. Brainstorming: what is history, why 'do' (congregational) history

II. Introductions: 'History is _____' (noun or verb or adjective)

III. Philosophy and definitions: History, Congregational History

A. what is any history:

1. functions: memory, identity, biography/autobiography, healing, narrative, group vs personal
2. components: facts, interpretation of facts

B. what is congregational history

1. functions: memory, identity, biography/autobiography, healing, narrative, group vs personal
2. components: facts, interpretation; factual vs spiritual: myth and symbols

C. those who are involved with congregational history

1. Creating:
2. Using history

D. Congregational history as lay work:

E. Differences between church and secular history

15 Practical Application of Church History: how do we really 'do' history in our congregations: remember that 'doing history' is

A. Practical components of congregational history:

1. Process:
2. Products: keeping records & archives, organizing, presenting, producing products (written, oral, visual)

B. Possible topics of congregational history:

C. involve congregations:

Comments, additions, questions re: what BC said above

Small group discussions:

- A. what new idea(s) did you hear today which have advanced your own interests in congregational history
- B. what would you like to add to what BC said
- C. what are you going to do for congregational history back home?

What new or good ideas have you heard in discussions? What ideas would you like to add to BC's lists, which are admittedly spotty

Handouts, Bibliography

See over for

- websites and bibliography
- handouts:
 - website samples
 - Questionnaire on congregational history
 - Congregational heritage society

