

***Seasons of the Spirit* Frequently Asked Questions**

Most *Whole People of God* users have heard something about the new resource called *Seasons of the Spirit*, and have questions. We have included answers to a few frequently asked questions here and on our website www.spiritseasons.com. Please contact Ken Ostermiller at 216-736-3866 or ostermik@ucc.org with further questions and we'll be glad to help you.

When will *Seasons of the Spirit* be available?

Seasons of the Spirit resources will be ready for use beginning in September 2002.

Will *The Whole People of God* still be available?

The Whole People of God resources end in August, 2002. After that, the vision and many of the features of *The Whole People of God* curriculum will live on in the exciting new resource called *Seasons of the Spirit*.

How is *Seasons of the Spirit* different from *The Whole People of God*?

Seasons of the Spirit maintains *The Whole People of God's* commitment to affordability, practical and easy-to-use materials, reproducible learner activity sheets, comprehensive resources for all ages, and inclusive language. *Seasons* is based on values churches have said matter most: Bible-based, reasonably priced, provides teacher support, and bridges the important ministries of worship, education and service.

While *The Whole People of God* had only one pack for ages 12-18, *Seasons of the Spirit* recognizes the need for resources for younger youth and older youth with resources for Ages 12-14 and Ages 15-18.

Congregational Life resource will provide materials that connect worship, learning, and service – distinct ministries in a congregation's life – in dynamic new ways. It includes a three-in-one guide that encourages worship leaders, superintendents, and mission service facilitators to plan and work together to coordinate leadership and implement dynamic ministry programs for all ages. It includes resources for intergenerational worship, prayers, sermons for all ages, teacher training, mission and service project ideas, printed music, at home resources and articles focusing on various aspects of church leadership. It also includes a CD-ROM with reproducible text from the Congregational Life guide, copyright cleared music, and images from the arts resource Behold for projection in worship.

Seasons of the Spirit uses the arts and technology to make current events connections and add new dimensions to learning.

Most importantly, what does not change between *Seasons of the Spirit* and *The Whole People of God* is the earnest desire to provide transforming worship, learning, and outreach resources for all ages

Is *Seasons of the Spirit* a quarterly curriculum?

Yes, but not in the traditional sense.

Seasons of the Spirit is based on the seasons of the Christian Church Year and the lectionary.

Because some of these seasons are as short as 2 weeks and some as long as 26, the seasons of **Advent, Christmas and Epiphany** are grouped together, as are **Lent and Easter**. The Season after Pentecost, the longest season of our Christian Year, is divided into two roughly equal parts: **Pentecost 1** (the first half of the Season after Pentecost), and **Pentecost 2** (the second half of the Season after Pentecost through Reign of Christ Sunday).

Beginning with the first season of materials usage dates of the resources are as follows:

Pentecost 2, 2002 (September 1 – November 28, 2002: The second half of the season after Pentecost through Reign of Christ Sunday) Lectionary Year A

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany (December 1, 2002 – March 2, 2003) Lectionary Year B

Lent/Easter, 2003 (March 9 – June 8, 2003) Lectionary Year B

Pentecost 1, 2003 (June 15 – August 31, 2003: The first half of the Season after Pentecost) Lectionary Year B

Pentecost 2, 2003 (September 7 – November 23, 2003: The second half of the Season after Pentecost through Reign of Christ) Lectionary Year B

When do we order?

Congregations that prefer to order annually will still be able to order once for the year. The curriculum will come to you in two half-yearly shipments. Order from your curriculum supplier as you would with *The Whole People of God*. The early order discount deadline is May 1, 2002, which is slightly later than it has been for *WPOG* in the past.

Are samples available now?

A sampling of session materials is available at no charge to churches. You can obtain these from your curriculum distributor or from the website www.spiritseasons.com. Sample materials will also be available in numerous resource centres. In the first months of 2002, full sets of the resources can be seen at the introduction workshops held in many locations.

To find out how you can attend an introductory workshop in your area, visit our website at www.spiritseasons.com and click on the “Workshops” link. Partners In Education are offering workshops to United Church of Christ congregations. Contact R. Kenneth Ostermiller at 216-736-3866 or ostermik@ucc.org for more information.

Can we photocopy materials?

Seasons includes photocopiable learner material, making it economical for churches to produce just the number of copies needed for any size education program.

There will also be colourful art and posters, music, and other learning resources. Online activities are also available at www.spiritseasons.com.

Does *Seasons* provide opportunities for feedback and suggestions?

Yes. Each *Seasons* resource provides a reproducible evaluation form. Users can also submit online evaluations at www.spiritseasons.com.

Seasons of the Spirit is developed by an intergenerational, ecumenical community. Like *The Whole People of God*, material for *Seasons of the Spirit* will be created new each year to incorporate your ideas, suggestions and evaluations.

Churches also have the opportunity to participate in the development of the curriculum through the Seasons International Bible Study project. Check the website www.spiritseasons.com for more information about how your church can participate.

Do we need computers and an internet connection to use *Seasons of the Spirit*?

Seasons of the Spirit takes advantage of emerging technologies such as the Internet and email, but it is still possible to use this complete resource without having a computer or a connection to the Internet.

How do I get the best price?

While *Seasons of the Spirit* has the flexibility to be purchased in four seasonal cycles, ordering for the whole year at one time before the discount deadline (for 9 or 12 months – just as you did with *The Whole People of God*) provides the best discount.

Seasons of the Spirit offers the same cost saving features as *The Whole People of God*, by allowing churches to photocopy activity sheets as needed (rather than purchase learner materials) and by including all of the class material in each age level package.

You'll find *Seasons* to be priced well below all comparable resources.

Watch for your *Seasons* catalogue, or check the website www.spiritseasons.com for full pricing.