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Table 1

Characteristics of Fowler's Six Stages of Faith

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5	Stage 6
Intuitive-Projective Faith	Mythic-Literal Faith	Synthetic-Conventional Faith	Individuative-Reflective Faith	Conjunctive Faith	Universalizing Faith
Fantasy filled	Takes on stories and beliefs that symbolize belonging to community	Expands world beyond family <i>We are all in this together.</i> Authority is located externally to self	Seriously takes burden of responsibility, commitment, and beliefs <i>Helping others as you go along the way.</i>	Grasps the inter-relatedness of one's reality <i>We help each other to do the best that we can.</i>	Appreciates truth in all forms
Imitative	Increased accuracy of perceptions	Group-oriented stage	Development of one's self and outlook <i>Life--it is how you live it and realize we're here to enjoy it.</i>	Symbolic power is reunited with conceptual meaning	Strives to be an incarnation of truth
Influenced by primally related adults <i>My family is my first concern.</i>	Develop reciprocal relationships <i>We are a cohesive group of staff, parents, and students.</i>	Beliefs and norms of significant others are more influential than in any other stage	Individualistic stage	Critical recognition of one's social unconscious: myths, ideal images, and prejudices deep in the self-system of social class, religious tradition, ethnic group <i>We have a society that is losing vision of what is central; we need a moral center.</i>	Radical action based upon belief <i>We have a moral that is so skewed. . . we must not forget what we are all about and begin to get along and interact.</i>
Organizes life through images <i>Describes building by demographics.</i>	Sort out real from make believe	Able to reflect on own thoughts and ways of experiencing <i>This is where I come from--I have a center.</i>	Symbols and stories analyzed objectively for the first time	Sees both sides of an issue	Faith compositions with sense of ultimate environment inclusive of all being

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