

Overview of the Religious Education Program of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus

Thank you for your interest in the Director of Religious Education position at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus. The following information was developed to highlight some key information about the depth and quality of our religious education programming. We look forward to talking with you about who we are, our vision of the future and what we need from our next Director of Religious Education.

Vision: The Religious Education Council strives to provide a rich, varied religious education program experience for UU's of all ages. Our programming is grounded in UU Principles and designed to enhance the development of caring and social action within our church community.

Scope of Programming

- 122 registered children from toddler through 5th grade
- 42 registered youth grades 6th through 12th
- 500 children visit our Sunday morning program each year (average 10 per week)
- Approximately 150 adult participants in over 40 classes and workshops
- Regular Sunday School program for 12 age groups runs from September to May for 38 weeks; times for programming are 9 am and 11 am
- Informal Summer Sunday program runs June to August at 10 am

Committee Structure

- Religious Education Council is a well-functioning committee structure that provides stability for the program, recommends policy and procedures and represents RE to the larger church
- Director of Religious Education chairs the RE Council
- Well-defined policy and procedures and Scope and Authority document
- Ministry teams of dedicated volunteers recruited by DRE to implement Children's, Youth, and Adult programs

Personnel

- 15 hour per week Religious Education Assistant
- Summer Program(s) Coordinator(s)
- Budget support to contract with a local agency for 1 toddler caregiver on Sunday mornings with arrangements made for caregivers by the Church Office

Volunteer Support

- 40 to 50 teachers and advisors annually, many who have multiple years of experience
- 15 to 20 Council and ministry team members
- 10 to 15 on roster of toddler care volunteers

Areas of Strength

- Adult Enrichment Program with a wide variety of classes and events supported by an active ministry team

- Stable well-functioning 11 AM Sunday School program
- Expanding, experimental 9 am Sunday School program
- Volunteer-run multi-age programs for 10 of the 38 weeks of regular Sunday School
- Well established community building retreats and training for teachers and advisors
- Established but flexible curriculum rotation through Coming of Age (9th grade)
- Regular programs and events such as a summer Peace Camp, and First Friday potlucks that draw in members of the community
- YASC (Youth Adult Steering Committee) and Senior High Youth Group with active participation in district conferences
- Highly visible Sunday morning RE programming welcoming and information area
- Attractive classroom and office space
- A dynamic music program with one children's and one youth choir
- Annual RE program budget of approx. \$9000.00
- \$2500 DRE professional development funds
- DRE Relations Committee provides advisory support to the DRE

Priority Areas in need of program development

- Guide and support transition of scope and breadth of Youth Programming with the intention to fund part-time Youth Ministries position.
- Work with Board of Trustees and RE Council on deepening Lifespan RE
- Guide and support changes reflecting the new curriculum "The Tapestry of Faith" from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)
- Continue development of 9 am Sunday School