

**Unitarian  
Universalist  
Church of  
Worcester**

*“Believing in a community that unites all people”*

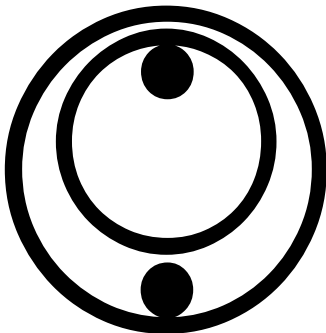


# **Drawing Circles**

**Religious Education Program  
2009–2010**

# Mission Statement

The mission of the  
Religious Education Program at UUCW  
is to promote  
a welcoming and inclusive community  
which values children and youth.  
Guided by the UU Principles, we strive  
to nurture the spiritual development  
of our children and youth  
and empower them to act on their beliefs.



## **Outwitted**

He drew a circle that shut me out—  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.  
But love and I had the wit to win:  
We drew a circle that took him in!

*Edwin Markham, 1899*

# UUCW Religious Education Program

In deciding what we want our children to learn during their many years in Sunday School, the Religious Education Committee has identified five areas:

- ① A grounding in UU principles, history, and traditions
- ① A study of ethics, of how to make decisions and to live as a UU
- ① A celebration of the diversity of world religions and of the common threads that join us all.
- ① A hands-on study of social justice and community service
- ① A study of the Judæo-Christian stories and themes which have shaped our culture and our own UU tradition

We welcome all children into our Religious Education Program, and we recognize that all children's needs are special. Some need specific kinds of support in order for their RE experience to be successful. The RE Program makes every effort to accommodate children with special needs in our classes. Parents may choose to be present in the classroom, to provide adaptive devices, and/or to continue prescribed medication. Our goal is to create an inclusive community that supports the needs of all. Parents are encouraged to consult with the DRE regarding the individual needs of every child.

The Religious Education Program at UUCW is a cooperative. We depend on all parents to contribute their time in some way, including teaching, working with our youth programs, serving on the RE Committee, sharing their talents and assisting with special programs and events.

Our RE Program recognizes parents and guardians as their children's most important religious educators, providing the moral and spiritual base from which they will grow. We hope to provide a structure that will encourage continued positive growth in personally meaningful ways within the larger context of a religious community. We encourage questioning attitudes, seeing a child's sense of spirituality more as a fire to be lit than a bucket to be filled.

# From the Director of Religious Education

*Dear Families,*

The circle of the year turns, and summer rolls steadily into fall. My garden tomatoes ripen, basil waits to become pesto, and golden chrysanthemums replace summer's shasta daisies. On Holden Street we're getting ready to begin again, and I'm thinking about circles.

This year our Religious Education theme is *Drawing Circles*. Through the year we will explore ways that our daily choices and actions either draw people into our circle or lock them out; we'll celebrate the concentric circles that make up the big circle of congregational life by creating social events and service projects to be shared by all generations. We'll reach out to the wider circle of our community with projects that support our Food Pantry, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, and the church's solar panel project. Circles surrounding circles, intersecting with other circles, ever widening to be inclusive.

It's September. Classes are planned; teachers and coordinators have been recruited; classrooms are being readied for the children who will soon fill them. This year we are excited to introduce several curricula from the new *Tapestry of Faith* collection published by the UUA. Our youngest children will participate in the Montessori-based *Spirit Play* program; our 7th grade class begins its pre-Coming of Age *Questing Year*;

grades 8-10 return on Sunday evenings for *OWL*, and Sunday mornings we invite high school teens to the brand new *Breakfast Club*. Lots going on!

Our Religious Education program has always been a cooperative effort relying on volunteers to teach, plan, mentor, supervise. and create programs for our children and teens. This year we remind parents gently that, as members of this cooperative, you have the responsibility to assist in our classrooms; you must step up in order to make this circle strong. All parents who have attended UUCW more than a year have been assigned weeks to serve as teaching assistants. Teaching and assisting in RE classes is a guaranteed way for parents to feel intimately involved in the circle of RE and in the larger circle of this congregation. By stepping up and accepting responsibility for our RE program, adults model for our children what it means to create and benefit from any circle of community.

Our RE slogan this year:

**Show up!**

(attend regularly to feel connected!)

**Step up!**

(raise your hand, make things happen!)

**Circle up!**

(within this circle that we create together we will find both comfort and joy!)

Warmly,

— *Deb Smith Selkow, DRE*

# From the Youth Program Coordinator

How often have you walked into a situation, like a party or a school event, and felt out of place and uncomfortable? Now think of those rich and wonderful times you've been in a place where you can be yourself, show your true colors, feel safe, loved and respected. In that safe circle you can dance, sing, laugh, share, and feel alive and unafraid. This is the kind of circle we will create together in UUCW youth programs this year. And our circle of youth will be held closely within the many other circles of our congregation, neighboring families and friends, the greater community, our world and environment. What a gift to be a part of these circles of life!

We'll offer a wide variety of opportunities throughout 2009-2010 for teens to grow together. There are many unique and interesting experiences ahead: discussions, worship, education, social action projects, and fun! Take a peek:

**QUESTING YEAR** – 9:00 am class. In this 7th grade pre-Coming of Age experience, take a closer look at what makes you YOU, what you believe and value.

**HIGH SCHOOL CLASS** – Sunday, 11 am.  
**The Breakfast Club** (Sept-Feb): Group check-in, discuss what's on your mind.

**Neighboring Faiths** (Feb-June): Explore world religions, visit other worship places, experience different customs and beliefs firsthand.

**HIGH SCHOOL WORSHIP** – Joining the church's wider circle, teens become a regular part of UUCW worship. The first Sunday each month (starting in November) the 11 am class will help lead the worship service. We'll sit together in designated "high school pews"; teens and their families will run coffee hour.

**OWL (Our Whole Lives)** – Sexuality education for grades 8-10, Sunday afternoons 4-7 pm Oct-Nov, Jan-Feb.

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP** – 7-9pm most Sunday nights. We're planning a mission trip to Baltimore to work at a large homeless shelter and take part in local mission projects. Thus we reach out to the wider circle of our community and give help and strength to others, remembering we are all part of the interconnected web of life. We'll also be involved in the solar panel project.

Other typical activities include the Lucky Coffee House, serving at the Gourmet Dinner, creating and leading a church-wide worship service, tubing, laser tag, lock-ins, bowling, parties, and many other teen-planned activities. Don't miss the fun and the friends!

It's September, time to begin again. I hope all teens step up and join the comfortable circle you can call your home away from home ... and just be you.

— Robin Caracciola

# From the Minister

*“The circle is the symbol of the sun and the earth and the universe. It is also a symbol of wholeness and perfection and peace. In these rings, here to be exchanged, it is the symbol of a continuing unity, in which wherever you go, you will always return to one another.”*

These words are often spoken during a marriage ceremony at the time when those who are marrying exchange rings as a symbol of their commitment to each other. Here a circle represents a love that has no beginning and no ending. It is a symbol representing family and a deep commitment to walk together through times both good and bad. This sacred ceremony includes such symbolism because the bonds that unite people in marriage are but an extension of the bonds that bind us to community and to the families of our origin.

This year the Religious Education Program has chosen *Drawing Circles* as its theme with a similar awareness that what binds us together as families, as a community of faith, as larger communities, nations, and the world are all bound in ever-widening circles of connection, awareness, and love. It is an important awareness for our children, and for all of us.

The questions that such symbolism represents are profound: What binds us together? What do we carry with us from our past that is now part of the circle we represent? What future possibilities are available because of our participation in the circle of love and life? What kinds of circles do we participate in? How can we learn to be more loving, peaceful, mindful, and compassionate in our participation in these circles? And so many more questions.

I invite you all to dive deeply into the experiences offered through our Religious Education Program this year. Your regular participation is an important means through which we strengthen and grown the circle of this program and our congregation, so participate, volunteer, take on leadership as you can, and – most importantly – HAVE FUN!

I look forward to seeing you all on Sundays and many times in between. Thank you for your commitment to our Religious Education Program and to one another.

Blessings,

— Rev. Aaron R. Payson  
Pastor

# RE Curricula for the Coming Year

## **Nursery (birth through age 3)**

Kris Johnson provides infant and childcare at both services every Sunday morning. Adult and teen volunteers assist Kris each week on a rotating schedule.

*Coordinator:* Rachel Keyo

## **Spirit Play (Pre-K/Kindergarten, 11 am)**

Spirit Play is a hands-on, multi-sensory curriculum based on the Montessori method. The program relies on central stories that share important UU and value-based themes, combines multiple ages, and utilizes child-centered space with many options for child-led work.

*Spirit Play Team:* Loree Burns, Barbara Cohen, Jenny DelGizzi, Cris Heffernan, Lee Johnson Erikson

## **\*Creating Home**

**(Pre-K through grade 3, 9 am;  
Grades 1-2, 11 am)**

*Tapestry of Faith* online publication

This program helps children develop a sense of home that is grounded in faith. Participants explore the purpose and functions of a home for people and for other animals. The program describes home as a place of belonging and introduces the concept of the congregation as a "faith home." Like a family home, a faith home offers its

members certain joys, protections and responsibilities.

*Coordinator:* Kristi Chadwick

## **\*Wonderful Welcome**

**(Pre-K through grade 3, 9 am;  
Grades 1-2, 11 am)**

*Tapestry of Faith* online publication

In this program, children identify intangible gifts central to Unitarian Universalism such as friendship, hospitality and fairness, and share these gifts with others. The gifts explored in Wonderful Welcome are all components of welcome, itself a core Unitarian Universalist value. Children are encouraged to think about the intangible gifts they bring to the world, and intangible gifts they receive. Children find safe, positive and intentional ways to relate to one another, their families, and the world around them as they investigate how they use gifts they cannot see or touch to welcome others in their lives.

*Coordinator:* Kristi Chadwick

## **Holidays and Holy Days**

**(Grades 3-4, 11 am)**

Children learn about the origins and meanings of important world holidays and holy days. Through the vehicle of celebration our young people become aware of interfaith values that UU's affirm, learn that celebrating is part of a

universal response to life, and honor the diversity of cultural tradition as well as the commonality of the human condition.

*Coordinator:* Rachel Peckar

**\*Toolbox of Faith (Grades 4-6, 9 am)**

*Tapestry of Faith* online publication

Toolbox of Faith invites children to reflect on qualities of our Unitarian Universalist faith, such as integrity, courage and love, as tools they can use in living their lives and building their own faith. Each of the 16 sessions uses a tool as a metaphor for an important quality of our faith such as reflection (symbolized by a mirror), flexibility (duct tape) and justice (a flashlight). Reflecting on the qualities (tools) of our faith, children and leaders gain insight into what makes our faith a faith for life.

*Coordinator:* Heather Weller

**\*Windows and Mirrors**

**(Grades 4-6, 9 am)**

*Tapestry of Faith* online publication

This program nurtures children's ability to acknowledge their own experiences and perspectives and to seek out, care about and respect those of others. Sessions unpack topics that lend themselves to diverse experiences and perspectives – for example, faith heritage, public service, anti-racism and prayer. Underlying the program is the lesson that there are always multiple viewpoints.

*Coordinator:* Heather Weller

**Amazing Grace: Exploring Right and Wrong (Grades 5-6, 11 am)**

*Tapestry of Faith* online publication

This program guides children through ways to determine right from wrong and act on their new understandings. Its purpose is to equip them for moving safely and productively through the middle- and high-school years, when they will be continually tugged toward both ends of the ethics continuum. Through *Amazing Grace*, youth come to depend on their Unitarian Universalist identity and resources as essential to their movement toward understanding, independence, and fulfillment of personal promise. Includes the game "Ethics Play" where participants explore possible choices in age appropriate, real life situations.

*Coordinator:* Eve Gilmore

**\*Riddle and Mystery:**

**UU Responses to Big Questions**

**(Grades 5-6, 11 am)**

"Is there a God?" "What happens after I die?" "Does my life have a purpose?" These are big questions we all voice. Though Unitarian Universalists espouse different theologies, we agree on many answers to these questions. This curriculum helps young people understand that our individual search for meaning in the universe is supported and strengthened when we come together as people of faith. Participants explore our shared UU beliefs and determine where their beliefs fit in the spectrum. Engaging, relevant activities

range from the introspective (WITT or, “What I Think” Time) to scripted dramas, Internet surveys, and exploring UU hymns for answers.

*Coordinator:* Eve Gilmore

### **The Questing Year (Grade 7, 9 am)**

This curriculum engages participants in four quests designed to help them seek and develop their own answers to deep life questions about human faith and the web of all existence. Connected through social action and spiritual search, the Mystery Quest, the Inner Quest, the Action Quest and the UU Quest form the foundation of this class, important preparation for next year’s Coming of Age program.

*Coordinator:* Robin Caracciolo

### **High School Breakfast Club**

**(11 am, September through February)**

Teens gather informally with Robin for group check-in and discussions about topics that they choose. On the first Sunday of each month this class will attend and help lead the 11am worship service. Participants will sit together in designated “high school pews.” Coffee hour will also be run by the high school teens and their families on these days.

*Coordinator:* Robin Caracciolo

### **Neighboring Faiths**

**(Grades 8-10, begins in March)**

This curriculum studies the history and development of neighboring faith traditions. Youth in this class will

choose which religious groups to learn about, visit, and relate to their own growing faith.

*Coordinator:* Robin Caracciolo

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\*Descriptions of these curricula are taken from the UUA website, *Tapestry of Faith Programs and Resources*. You can read more about them and other Tapestry of Faith programs at <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/abouttapestry/130209.shtml>

# UUCW Religious Education People

## **UUCW Professional Staff**

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## **2009–2010 Religious Education Committee**

***Lee Erikson***  
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***Claire Breyton***  
***Denise Darrigrand***  
***Jenny DelGizzi***  
***Erin Derr***  
***Cris Heffernan***  
***Vickie Cox Lanyon***  
***John Odell***

# Sunday Mornings and Beyond

## Registration

We welcome visitors to our classrooms. All children and teens must be registered, and after three visits, registration is required for participation in the program. Registration forms are available at our web site ([www.uucworcester.org](http://www.uucworcester.org)) or from Deb or classroom teachers.

## We Begin in the Sanctuary

Parents are reminded that children older than the Nursery *always* begin Sunday in the sanctuary with their families. After the opening hymn they will be dismissed to go either to their classes accompanied by their teachers or to Fellowship Hall for children's worship. Childcare for ages 3 and under is provided for every service. Classes will be held unless otherwise announced.

## Children's Chapel

Children's Chapel is a time to nurture our children's developing understanding of their own spirituality and to reinforce their sense of community. Led by Deb under the rainbow window, children sing an opening hymn, share

opening words, and light the rainbow chalice in honor of their joys and sorrows. Regular Sunday School classes do not meet on Chapel Sundays. Following Children's Chapel classes join together to do service projects, to work on a large group activity, or to play active games.

## After Church

Please pick up your children who are younger than grade five from their classrooms immediately following the service. Teachers are instructed to release children directly into the care of their parents only; if you need to make a different arrangement, please do so when you drop off your child before church. Please take time each week to check in with your child's teacher to see what the class has been doing – your interest and attention affirm for your children that you consider Sunday School important. *During Coffee Hour it is essential that parents supervise their children both inside and outside the building.* In order to satisfy safety and legal concerns, adults must be present if children play outdoors.

## **Cancellations**

In the event of severe weather, the decision to cancel church services and Religious Education classes will be made by 7am and will be:

- placed on the church answering machine which can be accessed by dialing (508) 853-1942.
- sent out to the RE family email list
- placed on TV channel 5
- placed online at [www.thebostonchannel.com](http://www.thebostonchannel.com). People may sign up at this web site to have closing information delivered to them by either email or a cell phone text message.

## **Religious Education**

### **Email List**

Families on the RE email list will receive regular communication from classroom teachers, coordinators, and from the DRE. If you do not wish to be a part of this year's RE communication list, please indicate that on your registration form. Through this list you will be reminded of upcoming events and things needed for class, and you will be notified in case of a cancellation. Families with email can expect to receive regular communication from classroom teachers about what is going on in class. Please use this information to begin conversations with your children.

# Calendar of Events 2009 –2010

## September

- 13 Opening day of church, inter-generational service, water ceremony; childcare provided for children under five; High School Youth Group planning meeting, 7-9 pm in Fellowship Hall
- 18-20 Church retreat at Ferry Beach
- 20 Regular intergenerational service in Worcester; childcare provided for children under five
- 25 Teens participate in WAYS work day in Worcester
- 27 Beginning of Two Services; Opening Day of Sunday School, RE Registration and Open House from 10 to 11 am; High School Youth Group Kickoff – 7-9 pm

## October

- 2-4 *(Friday-Sunday)* Youth Leadership Conference, New Haven
- 3 Multi-generational Candle-light Peace Vigil; Teen Fundraiser at First Unitarian

- 4 Mandatory OWL Parent Meeting, 7-9 pm
- 9-12 High School Mission trip to Baltimore
- 11 Child Dedication; Children's Chapel
- 18 CROP Walk; OWL begins, 4-7 pm
- 25 Intergenerational Service; UNICEF parade 9 am and 11 am

## November

- 8 Children's Chapel and Community service activity; Youth-led Service, 11 am
- 13 *(Friday)* Lucky Coffee House
- 21 *(Saturday)* RE Harvest Potluck Supper, 4-9 pm
- 22 Intergenerational Service

## December

- 6 Youth-led Service, 11 am
- 13 Caroling, 1 pm
- 20 No morning RE; 9 am service only: Childcare provided for

children under five

20 Candlelight Vespers service  
4 pm; childcare provided

24 (*Thursday*) Christmas Eve  
service, 9 pm

27 No RE classes; childcare  
provided for children under  
five

### **January**

3 Birthday Intersession Begins;  
OWL resumes;  
Youth-led Service, 11 am

9 (*Saturday*) School of Rock  
Talent Show, 6-8 pm

31 Intergenerational Service;  
One Church–One Book  
Discussion, 12:30-1:30;  
Interfaith Hospitality  
Network at First Unitarian

### **February**

7 Youth-led Service, 11 am

28 Children’s Chapel and  
Community Service Activity;  
Neighboring Faiths begins

### **March**

6 (*Saturday*) Middle School  
District Youth Rally

7 Youth-led Service, 11 am;  
Recycle Art for Families,

1-3 pm

21 Youth-led Service,  
9 am and 11 am

### **April**

3 (*Saturday*) All Church Seder,  
5 pm

4 Intergenerational Easter  
service, Easter Egg Hunt

18 Children’s Chapel

25 9 am service only;  
Annual Meeting 11 am,  
childcare provided

### **May**

3 Youth-led Service, 11 am

10 Mother’s Day

30 Children’s Chapel and  
Community Service Activity

### **June**

6 Connect-the-Dots Sunday;  
Youth-led Service, 11 am

13 Intergenerational RE Sunday,  
single service 11 am;  
All-church picnic following  
the service;  
Youth Group Bridging Seniors

# Special Programs and Events

## **Spring Intersession**

In this year when our RE theme is *Drawing Circles*, we will spend our four January intersession weeks focused on Birthdays. Birthdays are an important and universally shared life event no matter what circle we live in. Everybody has a birthday: children, adults, food pantry clients, historical UU figures, and birthday celebrations provide a fun way for us to share our common experience. Our January weeks will include a multi-generational birthday tea hosted by the children in RE, a collection of birthday party paraphernalia to pack into birthday party kits for distribution at our food pantry, the making of birthday cards for folks who need some birthday cheer, the celebration of important UU birthdays, and other yet to be invented birthday celebrations that help us recognize things we have in common.

## **Multi-generational Candlelight Peace Vigil**

On October 3, RE hosts the fourth annual Candlelight Peace Vigil designed especially to welcome families and children as well as friends and neighbors of all ages from our Worcester community. In honor of the annual UN International Day of Peace, this year's evening event features singing, quiet meditation, lotus blossoms with

messages of peace floated in pools on the lawn, and concludes with candles held high around our Peace Pole.

## **Social Action and Community Service**

During the year RE orchestrates many Social Action and Community Service opportunities that encourage our children and families to work together. In addition to our Thanksgiving food and toiletry drive and our Holiday Giving Tree, this year children and teens will undertake several projects designed to emphasize our role as caretakers of the interdependent circles of which we are a part. Projects this year will likely include collecting food for our Loaves and Fishes food pantry, helping to build and install solar panels for Fellowship Hall, hosting and cooking for Interfaith Hospitality families housed at First Unitarian, and participation in a mission trip to a homeless shelter in Baltimore hosted by the Worcester Area Missionary Society (WAMS). By working together to serve our community and to care for our environment, our children develop their skills and gain confidence in their ability to make a valuable contribution to the world.

Participating in hands-on service projects gives all of us a chance to further develop friendships.

## **OWL (Our Whole Lives)**

OWL is a series of sexuality education curricula for five age groups from kindergarten through adult. This year we offer OWL to grades 8 through 10 on Sundays from 4-7 pm beginning October 18, and eight weeks of OWL to grade 5 in the winter (time to be announced).

*Our Whole Lives* helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. OWL is grounded in a holistic view of sexuality to provide not only facts about anatomy and human development, but to help participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality. *(adapted from the UUA web page)*

## **Music! Music! Music!**

### ***New Intergenerational Choir— Everyone Can Sing!***

Children and adults of all ages are invited to sing together in this new choir, especially designed to bring several generations together. Singers are asked to rehearse from 12-1 pm on the Sunday before each performance and again for an hour before the service at which they will sing. Matt will choose simple music and our focus will be on loving the music and the shared experience as we blend voices of many

ages. The intergenerational choir will sing at all intergenerational services beginning on October 25 and including Vespers and Easter.

### ***High School Choir— for local UU teens in grades 8-12***

Our teen choir is back and begins rehearsals on Sunday evening, September 27. Under the direction of David and Becky Spanagel, Rebecca Ziegler, and Matt Johnsen, our teens rehearse weekly from 6-7 pm at UUCW immediately prior to Youth Group. In addition to singing in morning services at both UUCW and First Unitarian, they will perform at the Youth Group's Lucky Coffee House in November and at special holiday events.

### **High School Youth Group Welcomes Teens in Grades 8-12**

High School teens are invited to attend Youth Group on Sunday evenings from 7-9. Together they enjoy social activities, social action projects and worship opportunities. Youth Group gives our high school youth the opportunity to develop healthy peer and community relationships, foster leadership skills, participate in community service and outreach, and discover more deeply their personal convictions as they learn and grow together in a safe space. One of the goals of this year is to connect with other high school youth groups in the area, and youth are welcome to bring a friend to Sunday night meetings.

# Keeping Everybody Safe

In accordance with the Safe Congregation policy approved by the UUCW Board of Management in 2007, the Religious Education Program screens all volunteers who work with children and youth through this church. All volunteers must submit a Volunteer Application form which includes a Voluntary Disclosure Statement as well as a list of references. In addition all volunteers are CORI-screened every three years and sign the Code of Ethics every year.

## RE Code of Ethics

The following Code of Ethics was adopted as policy by the Religious Education Committee and the Board of Management; all adults working with children agree to sign and abide by it:

### **Code of Ethics for Adults Working with Children and Youth in Church-Sponsored Programs**

Adults who are in leadership roles are in a position of stewardship and play a key role in fostering spiritual development of both individuals and the community. It is, therefore, especially important that those in leadership positions be well-qualified to provide the special nurture, care and support that will enable children and youth to develop a positive sense of self and a spirit of independence and responsibility.

The relationship between young

people and their leaders must be one of mutual respect if the positive potential is to be realized. There are no more important areas of growth than those of self-worth and the development of a healthy identity as a sexual being. Adults play a key role in assisting children and youth in these areas of growth. Children, youth and adults suffer damaging effects when leaders become sexually involved with young persons in their care. Therefore, leaders must refrain from engaging in sexual, seductive or erotic behavior with children and youth. Neither shall they sexually harass or engage in behavior with children or youth which constitutes verbal, emotional or physical abuse.

Leaders shall be informed of the code of ethics and shall agree to it before assuming their role. In cases of violation of this code, appropriate action will be taken.

# RE Volunteer Job Descriptions

## **Religious Education Committee (REC)**

The REC is responsible for providing policy, planning, vision and overview of the RE program. One need not be a member of the REC to attend meetings; everyone is welcome.

## **Class Coordinators**

Each class has a class coordinator whose job it is to support and inform the teachers and to provide continuity to the children as teachers rotate with each new session. Coordinators meet with teachers to create a teaching schedule for the year; make certain that teachers have all needed books and supplies; create documents informing teachers of class rituals, behavior policies / covenants, and children's health requirements; and communicate with teachers, students and families via e-mail. They are responsible for setting up the classroom in the fall and for keeping it and the classroom supplies in neat order.

## **Teachers and Teaching Teams**

Each class is taught by a lead teacher and an assistant. A team of three lead teachers is responsible for teaching the curriculum weeks during the year. Lead teachers read the curriculum guide, plan and lead the class, make sure all materials are available in advance, and send out follow-up messages to families. All parents whose children participate in RE, who have attended for at least a year, and who are not serving as teachers, coordinators, mentors, or REC members are assigned as classroom assistants. On curriculum weeks, their job is to help the lead teacher. On Chapel weeks and during Intersession, they are responsible for supervising the class in the activities which are planned and run by the DRE and the REC.

## **Youth Group Advisors**

Youth Group Advisors work with the Youth Program Coordinator, youth leadership, and other staff to help facilitate the youth group program. Advisors attend regularly scheduled youth group meetings (on a rotating basis with other advisors), monthly planning meetings, and other activities as they are able.

**Unitarian  
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*“Believing in a community that unites all people”*