

## Welcome to Children's Religious Education

Welcome to the Religious Education Program at The Unitarian Church in Summit. We are a liberal religious community and our goal is to foster the lifelong spiritual growth of all individuals.

### The Foundation

"The foundation of our religion does not rest upon miracles nor do we believe in Truth as something revealed in its fullness to anyone in times past. To us, Life and the universe in which life flourishes are miracles enough. Growing insights are the only revelations on which we count. We glory in our children's curiosities and in their open-minded inquiries." – **Sophia Fahs, Religious Educator**

The program of religious education is determined, as are all other programs, by members of our congregation. A wide

range of courses is available through the Unitarian Universalist Association. These are adapted to fit with our goals and mission. We combine material from various age-appropriate curricula so that most children are exposed to four major areas of study: Unitarian Universalism, Jewish-Christian heritage, world religions, and peace and social justice.

Courses appropriate for children range in themes as varied as interpersonal relations, ethical questions, the Bible, world religions, nature and ecology, heroes and heroines of social reform, Unitarian Universalist history, and holy days around the world. In our congregation, regular children's worship is held during a portion of the adult service. We seek to teach our children to be responsible for their own thinking and to nurture their own impulses of reverence, morality, respect for others, and themselves.

## Unitarian Principles and Purposes in Language for Children

The Unitarian Universalist Association has enunciated seven key principles of Unitarian Universalism. Here is one way to express them in simpler language for younger children.

Every person is important and valuable

All people should be treated fairly

Our churches are places where we should accept one another and learn together

Each person is free to search for what is true and right

All people have a right to speak out and vote on things that matter to them

We should build a peaceful, fair and free world

We need to take care of the Earth, the home we share with all living things

## Children's Religious Education Committee (CREC)

The CREC, along with the Director of Religious Education has the primary responsibility of planning, coordinating, and evaluating the religious education program. The committee meets monthly throughout the year to articulate goals, establish policies and procedures, develop new programs and arrange a wide range of events and activities for children.

## FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

### Who Are Our Teachers/Facilitators?

Our teachers are people like you – individuals who are deeply interested in all aspects of their child's development and willing to make the commitment not only in coming to church, but

extending themselves further into the teaching arena.

Teachers are organized into teams of three. One teacher leads, another assists, and the third rotates with the first two. In this way, your child's experience is always with a "core" group of teachers and no one teacher is overburdened.

**WHEN?** During regular Religious Education classes, parents are expected to drop their children off at their respective classrooms and arrive to pick them up no later than 10.00 am (early service) and no later than 11.45 pm (later service).

**WHERE?** In the classrooms on the lower and upper floors. The main floor has the church offices and the nursery. If you have trouble finding a classroom, please don't hesitate to ask the Director of Religious Education.

If there is a

### Vision Statement

*To nurture and support the growth of children's spiritual identity using UU Principles and Sources, and to empower the children to lead ethical and moral lives within the congregation and larger community*

Our goal is to create a welcoming, trusting community in which your child will be nurtured spiritually, stretched mentally and supported emotionally.

We want our children to grow in their understanding of themselves and their world.

Our challenge is to empower children to take responsibility for their actions and moral and ethical decisions.

special

event being planned, there will be signs posted in the lobby. Sunday Supervisors, volunteer members responsible for the safety of the children in the Religious Education program, are also available.

**HOW?** We request that you register your child even if you are visiting and not planning on attending. Your registration helps our teachers interact with their group and helps plan for an efficient classroom experience.

## **VISITORS**

If you are visiting us, please stop by our welcome desk and sign our guest book. You will receive a name-tag and further information about our congregation and our services. To have your children attend classes, please see a Sunday Supervisor in the lobby. Someone at the welcome desk will be able to direct you.