CLASSROOM VOLUNTEER & YAYA STAFF TRAINING

First Universalist Church
Fall 2019
WHOA!

We made it.
What obstacles tried to block your arrival?
Thanks for persevering.
Let’s take a deep breath
and arrive together.
What do our children need on Sunday morning?
They need to light a candle, and have a quiet moment to enjoy its mystery. They need to sing a song, to hear their own voice and other voices joined together, and to feel the feelings that are stirred by music. They need to hear a story and have a chance to share their own, remembering that we are each different and also very alike. They need to create something. Expressing themselves, whether using words or materials, helps to bind the different parts of ourselves and our lives together. That’s what religion is. They need to be with an adult who is interested in the world and who feels the privilege and responsibility of their trust – one who is glad to be with them and regards them positively... Without this essential loving embrace, the education will not be religious.

—Lowell Brook
WHAT DO YOU NEED?

Share with one or two of the folks at your table.
Today's Agenda

01 Overview
What is RE? Where are we going, and why are we going there together?

02 Nuts & Bolts
How do we keep this vehicle in motion and everyone on board safe?

03 Crew Meetings
Who's on your teaching team? Take a look at the map for your mission.
01

Religious Education

Overview

Who’s on board?
What are we aiming for?
A Little Data About Our Program

- 540 Children and Youth in Religious Education (RE)
- 1,000 Church members, give or take a few
- 220 Adult volunteers in RE
- 300 Families with kids in RE
Our Staff Team

Lauren Wyeth
Director, Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Seth Matz
Young Children’s Program Coordinator

Phyllis Stenerson and Youth & Young Adult Staff

Childcare Staff and Classroom Helpers
Doing Church Together
We make promises of how we aspire to be together, so we can build a religious community of justice, compassion, joy, humility, courage, love and hope.

Covenants aren’t rules. They’re more like recipes or road maps.
Do your best.

Forgive yourself and others when someone makes a mistake.

Respect the needs of others.

Listen to your own needs.
We are working to make our church a place of welcome, affirmation and support for all children, youth and families, responsive to those with varying abilities, strengths and needs. When we put our Unitarian Universalist values into practice, all who wish to make this their religious home will find inclusion, a variety of ways to engage in meaningful and relevant programming, and a deep sense of belonging.

Rooms 102 & 206 will be staffed as calming, alternative spaces for kids wanting connection or a break.
We want everyone to have an experience of being greeted, seen, heard and valued. We want everyone to have a chance to greet, see, hear and value others.

The chance to be in a familiar and comforting place, being part of rituals that bring people together to create beauty, meaning and joy.

Some nugget of something that sticks, be it an idea, a song, a story, a question, or the memory of a really positive time with friends at church.
What we aim for over the years

⭐ Worship
We want our children and youth to experience the benefits of shared worship. Why do you go to the worship service?

✔ Mark milestones
We prepare child and family to navigate transitions with grace and support, and we celebrate milestones of growing up. At what ages have you noticed big changes in childhood?

🔐 Tackle tough topics
Some topics take extra courage and compassion. Together, we can navigate hard things, cultivate hope, and make life easier for ourselves and others. What are tough topics for kids and families to talk about?
At all ages, we share similar needs. At some stages, we navigate particular challenges.
STAGES OF FAITH DEVELOPMENT
Homework for First Timers

It helps to have a sense of the whole road we have mapped out for our children and youth, even if you’re starting with Preschoolers this year!

Pick up a copy of the Children, Youth and Family Ministries brochure or go online and review the curricula for every grade, Preschool-Senior High.
NUTS & BOLTS
How it all works!
Treasure Hunt

Tools

Your team will need:

- Experienced & first-time Volunteers and YAYA Staff
- Your Class Calendar
- Tips for Navigating Sunday Morning
Test your knowledge about how RE works

How do I know who is registered in my class? How do I take attendance? What if kids come to class who are registered for the other service?

How do I know the kids names? How do they and their families know mine? Where should visitors check in? Where can I find staff?
7-8 Sundays/year.
Select your own Sundays.
Concentrate on one curriculum.
Volunteer in the same classroom.
Communicate with your team.
Review sessions in advance.
Find a sub if you need one.

1st and 3rd Sundays are now Sharing Sundays:
K-6th, Sept-Jan
PreK-5th, Jan-May

We still have Justice Sundays.
New this year:
2nd-5th graders have several Choice Sundays.

On holiday weekends and school breaks, we often have multigenerational worship or offer childcare but not an RE session.
Volunteers and YAYA Staff provide care on those Sundays, too.
everything is online

Volunteer Resources at 1stureligiouseducation.weebly.com
Thanks!

Does anyone have any questions?
Meet with your team and go deeper.

In the words of Rev. Theresa Ines Soto,

You are Good.
You are Loved.
You could use a little work.
We are in this together.

So we go with humility and humor,
with open minds ready to learn,
with open hearts ready to love,
with open hands ready to join
with others, wherever our journey this year takes us.
This is where we give credit!
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Sometimes, reviewing concepts is a good idea.

**MARS**
Despite being red, Mars is a cold place. It’s full of iron oxide dust.

**VENUS**
Venus has a beautiful name, but it’s terribly hot, even hotter than Mercury.

**SATURN**
Saturn is composed mostly of hydrogen and helium.

**JUPITER**
It’s a gas giant and the biggest planet in our Solar System.

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INFographics make your idea understandable …

MERCURY
Is the closest planet to the Sun and is only a bit larger than our Moon

JUPITER
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MARS
Despite being red, Mars is a cold place. It’s full of iron oxide dust
If you want to modify this graph, click on it, follow the link, change the data and replace it.
This is a map

**JUPITER**
It's a gas giant and the biggest planet in our Solar System

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**MERCURY**
Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun and is only a bit larger than our Moon

**MARS**
Despite being red, Mars is a cold place, not hot. It's full of iron oxide dust
How about the percentages?

JUPITER
It's a gas giant and the biggest planet in our Solar System

VENUS
Venus has a beautiful name, but it's terribly hot

MERCURY
Mercury is the smallest planet in our Solar System

MARS
Despite being red, Mars is a cold place, not hot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>75%</th>
<th>25%</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>85%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MARS</td>
<td>JUPITER</td>
<td>VENUS</td>
<td>MERCURY</td>
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