

## Religious Education Curricula 2011-2012

*Classes at 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. Sunday*

### Nursery

Our youngest among us are cared for in a safe, nurturing environment.

### Preschool **We Are Many, We Are One**

Our preschoolers will learn about their religious community and traditions and discover and express their uniqueness. They'll use their minds, bodies, and emotions to develop their sense of identity and self-esteem.

### Kindergarten and First Grade **Around the Church, Around the Year**

Our kindergartners and first graders will become more familiar with their Unitarian Universalist community—its people, buildings, rituals and celebrations.

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

An eight week mid winter curricula which supports parents in educating children about birth, babies, bodies and families. Available by option, includes parent meeting, parent/child orientation, as well as homework for parents and children to do together.

### Second and Third Grade **Love Will Guide Us**

With the guiding force of love, the second and third graders will be exploring the sources of Unitarian Universalism, and using them to help answer life's big questions and encounter life's dilemmas.

### Fourth Grade **A Chalice Celebration**

Our fourth graders explore their UU faith and identity and prepare for the chalice ceremony.

### **Honoring our Mother Earth**

After the ceremony, they'll explore earth-centered traditions that celebrate the sacred circle of life.

### Fifth Grade **Bibleodeon**

Bibleodeon introduces Hebrew and Christian stories and engages fifth graders interactively, also exploring connections between biblical events and UU principles, between biblical ideas and their own lives.

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

An eight week mid-winter curriculum that discusses the emotional and physical changes of puberty, and examines topics such as values and sexuality, communication and decision making. Available by option, includes parent meeting and homework for parents and children to do together.

### Sixth Grade **Making a Difference**

The focus in sixth grade is on community, what it means to be part of a community, the impact of our actions, and our call to make a difference in this world. Hands-on social action projects are included.

### Seventh and Eighth Grade **Neighboring Faiths**

An exploration of different faith traditions, both in the classroom and on field trips, as well as opportunities to reflect on their own faith.

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

A comprehensive approach to human sexuality, with the values of respect, responsibility, justice and inclusiveness. Available by option in addition to regular Sunday morning classes over the course of the year, and includes a comprehensive parent orientation. Meets Sunday evenings.

### Ninth Grade (9:00 Service Only) **Coming of Age**

A rite of passage year devoted to exploring Unitarian Universalist identity, theology, history and spirituality through discussion, drama, music, writing and art. This will be a time for participants to define their beliefs and put their faith into action.

### Tenth-Twelfth Grade (10:45 Service Only) **Youth Group**

Discussions, activities, projects and learning experiences selected by our young people with input from their advisors. Travel to district level youth conferences (in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Missouri) and planning for social mission projects.

***Our program is almost entirely dependent upon the gifts of our volunteers. You are encouraged to donate your time and talent to our collective efforts!***

## KNOW. FEEL. BE.

The religious education ministry of Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation engages the minds, the hearts and the whole selves of our young people. When they graduate from our program, our young people will be equipped for their life-long journey of learning, integrating this knowledge, these feelings, and these experiences.

### Our young people will **know**:

- Unitarian Universalist faith, history and heritage
- The value of sacred stories and leaders from other faith traditions
- That meaning comes from many sources
- Their own self worth, and manifest this in healthy relationships
- Their actions make a difference in this world

### Our young people will **feel**:

- Committed to Unitarian Universalism
- Called to act out of love, not fear
- Valued and have ownership in their UU community
- Part of something larger than themselves
- Hope, beauty and inspiration in our worship

### Our young people will **be**:

- Able to draw strength and comfort in times of grief from themselves and others.
- Accepting of their own and life's limitations
- Open and willing to engage with others in an ongoing quest for truth and meaning.
- Loving, caring and kind
- Engaged in developing their own ongoing spiritual practice

*Adopted 3/2009*



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

### OUR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PRINCIPLES

#### WE BELIEVE...

- that each and every person is important.
- that all people should be treated fairly.
- that our churches are places where all people are accepted, and where we keep on learning together.
- that each person should be free to search for what is true and right in life.
- that all people should have a voice and a vote about the things that concern them.
- that we should work for a peaceful, fair and free world.
- that we should care for our planet Earth.

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