

# Children's Religious Education

Prospectus 2010-2011

It is a blessing to be.

It is a blessing to be here.

It is a blessing to be here now.

It is a blessing to be here now, together.

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## OUR MISSION

Our Children's Religious Education program encourages youth to explore our Unitarian Universalist identity, Jewish and Christian traditions, world religions, and social and environmental issues through discussion, worship, meaningful ritual and community involvement.

## OUR VISION

Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel provides an open, nurturing environment for our youth to study the wisdom and experiences of other spiritual seekers so they may become spiritually fulfilled, conscientious, compassionate members of our local and global community.



**Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only**

## Classroom Covenant

**I have a right to be happy and to be treated with kindness in this room.**

This means that no one will laugh at me, ignore me, or hurt my feelings.

**I have a right to be myself in this room.**

This means that no one will treat me unfairly because I am fat or thin, fast or slow, boy or girl.

**I have a right to be safe in this room.**

This means that no one will hit me, kick me, push me, or pinch me or talk mean to me.

**I have a right to hear and be heard in this room.**

This means that no one will yell, scream or shout, and my opinions and desires will be considered in any plans we make.

**I have a right to learn about myself in this room.**

This means that I will be free to express my feelings and opinions without being interrupted or punished.

**Along with my right to be respected in this room, I have the responsibility to be respectful in this room.**

This means that I will treat everyone the way I want to be treated and that I will take care of everything as if it were my own.



# From the Director of Religious Education

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I welcome you to the Children's Religious Education program at Emerson. Our ministry is a communal vision of support and training for our young people. At the heart of our mission is the goal to offer a full and holistic religious education to our children, allowing them to discover and understand our UU principles as well of learn of the world religions and our shared heritage. We aim to create seekers of spirituality, champions of justice, and compassionate individuals who contribute in positive ways to society and our global community.

The program serves children from infancy to young adulthood in a series of age-appropriate classes for their nurture and learning, using exceptional, established curricula as the base of our lessons.

Sundays are a time for learning and sharing and children will meet in class following the worship hour. Additionally, social justice projects led by the Children's RE team will be woven into our experience throughout the year.

Please contact me with any questions regarding the RE program.

Warm regards,

Jenn Taylor, *Director of Religious Education*

## Unitarian Universalist Association

### Principles and Purposes

#### Adapted for Children

We believe that each and every person is important.

We believe that we need to work to make rules fair for everyone.

We believe that our church is a place where all people are accepted and where we keep on learning together.

We believe that each person should be free to search for what is true and right in life.

We believe that we should listen to all kinds of different opinions and that everyone should have a vote about things that concern them.

We believe in trying to get along peacefully and fairly with all the people in the world.

We believe in loving and caring for the earth, animals, and plants, as they are a part of nature with us.

## Religious Education Team

Laura Davidson, committee chair

Susan Bell

Barb Brown

Nancy Fish

Sonya McGowin

Alyson Taggart

Kirsten Wheeler

Jenn Taylor, DRE

## CLASSES AND CURRICULA

### Infants and Toddlers:

Receive consistent, responsible childcare with age appropriate creative play.

### 3-5 Year Olds:

Discover elements of our UU faith through CHALICE CHILDREN, a curriculum to nurture spiritual growth, creativity and a sense of community.

### 6-7 Year Olds & 8-10 Year Olds:

Are introduced to people from our UU heritage and the Bible who have acted with courage and wisdom in their attempts to make the world a better place. Our SUPER HEROES curriculum leads the way to our personal discovery of our own power to make a difference.

### 11-13 Year olds:

Engage in a spiritual journey to sort out feelings about themselves and their world as they discover what they believe about life's big questions. COMPASS POINTS marks the path and encourages the personal exploration it takes to take on the growing up we all must do.

### 14-18 Year Olds:

Celebrate their growing independence and learn to find spiritual lessons in all places and spaces they encounter. THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE SIMPSONS encourages deep thinking and discussion as our YOUTH encounter experiences that ground their personal belief and discovery and grow in their understanding of being part of community.

**All Classes and ages groups will be anxiously engaged in social justice projects throughout the church year.**