

## Parents' Guide to Faith Development for Children, Youth, and Teens 2007- 2008

### ***As Unitarian Universalists we believe:***

- 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 should be free to search for what is true and right;
- All people have the 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.

### ***Our Mission in Children, Youth, Teen Faith Development:***

- To help our children, youth, and teens develop and nurture personal values based in the Principles of Unitarian Universalism;
- To strengthen interconnections among our youngest members, the congregation, and the larger community;
- To structure environments that reflect the ideals held in the Covenant of Right Relations, which guides our church's personal interactions by modeling treating each other kindly, respectfully, fairly and gently;
- To give each young person the chance to explore his/her own sense of wonder and spirituality through songs, lighting the Chalice, art exploration, service to others and sharing.

### ***Sunday Morning Format***

Families attend the first part of the worship service together, and the children are released to attend their programs during the singing of a special hymn. Parents are welcome to walk with their children to the Fahs House or Parker House. YRUU (high school) begin in their meeting space in Parker House basement. Children and youth return to the Sanctuary Building at 12:15 PM.

***Nursery care*** is also available in the Sanctuary Building for infants, toddlers & preschoolers deemed too young to attend classes.

### ***Behavior Policy***

All participants are expected to work together to create a respectful and cooperative environment. Physical safety and a comfortable emotional environment are essential. Please remind your children of appropriate behavior for Faith Development Programs and let them share with you their classroom Covenant of Behavior.

### ***Outside Rules***

- 1) Safety first – at all times.
- 2) Respect each other and adults.
- 3) Children must check-in/out before leaving the play/activity area.
- 4) Playing in trees is not permitted.
- 5) Throwing objects is only permitted in the context of supervised games.
- 6) Cross the parking lot only with an adult

### ***Age Appropriate Participation***

Children and youth, including visitors, will be placed in groups according to their age and grade in school. *Any exceptions to this policy will need approval from the teachers, parents and the Director of Faith Development (DFD).* If special needs should arise, we will work together to seek solutions that are successful for all children/youth, parents and teachers involved.



***Our Faith Development Program is a cooperative effort of parents and other members of the church community. To provide quality programming, it is expected that all parents enrolling children will support the program through volunteering their time.***