



June 12, 2009

Dear North Parish Members and Friends,

The Religious Education (RE) Committee is currently planning the Religious Education programming for the 2009-2010 year. After this interim year of listening to and conversations with the congregation, we move forward with a clearer vision for the program, albeit without a permanent Director of Religious Education in place. This letter serves to inform you of the structure of the program for next year, to ask you how you will be involved, and to ask parents to register their children. While parents with enrolled children are expected to volunteer, we know that many others are also interested in sharing their time and talents with the children and youth. **Please review the information below and on the attached forms, decide how you would like to be involved next year, and complete the forms and return them by the end of June.**

You can email your completed forms to **ReligiousEducationRegistration@NorthParish.org** or via mail to Religious Education Registration, North Parish Church, 3 Great Pond Road, North Andover, MA 01845. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Deb Olander via email at **DebOlander@comcast.net**.

Programming for next year includes the following components. The program descriptions and volunteer commitment are detailed on the back of this letter.

Grades preK-5

First Sunday of each month: Laura Howell of the RE Committee has agreed to plan and lead Children's Chapel, which follows the rituals of stories, songs, and candles of joy and concern with time for interaction through an activity at the end. Volunteer assistants will attend each month.

Middle (2 or 3) Sundays: the children will begin in the sanctuary before going to their classrooms. The preK-K curriculum will be *We Are Many, We Are One* and the grade 1-5 curriculum will be focused on UU principles and sources. Teachers will be asked to help for the fall (September-December), winter (December-March), or spring (March - June).

Last Sunday: the children will begin in the sanctuary before going to the chapel for multi-age Special Sunday activities, led by a volunteer who has an activity or passion to share (examples this spring included Prayer Shawl Ministry and Green Sanctuary projects) and supported by assistants each month.

Middle School

1st and 3rd Sundays: *Neighboring Faiths* for grades 6 & 7 will meet from 11:00-12:30 to explore other faiths and beliefs, including field trips to other faith communities, led by teachers and supported by visit and transportation coordinators.

1st and 3rd Sundays: *Our Whole Lives* for grade 8 will meet from 11:00-12:30. Trained facilitators lead sessions that help youth make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior.

2nd and 4th Sundays: Junior Youth Group for grades 6-8 will meet from 11:00-12:30. Youth will participate in social action and community-building projects under the guidance of co-leaders and with the support of assistants.

High School

2nd and 4th Sundays of each month: *Coming of Age* for 9th graders will meet from 11:00-12:30. Youth will investigate their personal spirituality and develop a greater sense of what they believe through the program, with the support of adult mentors.

1st and 3rd Sundays of each month: Senior Youth Group for grades 9-12 will meet on Sunday evenings. Youth will participate in social action and community-building projects under the guidance of co-leaders and with the support of assistants.

Descriptions of Programs and Volunteer Commitment

Teaching Grades PreK - K Sunday Morning

6 teachers

Classes meet on the middle weeks of each month at 9 and 11 in three sessions (fall, winter, and spring). This year's curriculum, *We Are Many, We Are One*, will be provided to the teachers. Two teachers are needed for each session (7-8 Sundays per session). <http://archive.uua.org/re/reach/curriculum/wearemany.html>

Teaching Grades 1 - 5 Sunday Morning

12 teachers

Classes meet on the middle weeks of each month at 9 and 11 in three sessions (fall, winter, and spring). This year's curriculum will focus on UU principles and sources. Two teachers for each grade group (e.g. 1-3 and 4-5, depending on enrollment numbers) for each session (7-8 Sundays per session).

Teaching Grades 6 & 7

3 teachers

Classes for grades 6 & 7 meet for 90 minutes on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Three teachers are needed for the year to use the curriculum *Neighboring Faiths* to help youth learn about their own faith and other faith traditions through interactive experience such as field trips and interviews. Each faith explored will involve 3 sessions – one to explore the ideas of the faith, one to visit a service, ceremony or house of worship (may need to occur on other than Sunday morning), and one to discuss the experience in the context of the range of beliefs and practices. Teachers will invite members from the congregation to visit their classes and share their expertise in a specific faith tradition. Teachers will rotate so that two will attend each session so each will be making a 10-week commitment. Must attend a summer planning meeting with the visit and transportation coordinators and RE liaison. <http://archive.uua.org/re/currmap/curriculum.php?CurrID=107>

Neighboring Faiths Visit Coordinator

1 coordinator

Plan, with the teachers and transportation coordinator, the visits that will take place for the year. Requires substantial planning ahead for the five visits that must be scheduled. The visit coordinator will be the point of contact with the faith communities that will be visited. Must attend a summer planning meeting with the teachers, transportation coordinator and liaison to the RE Committee.

Neighboring Faiths Transportation Coordinator

1 coordinator

Organize transportation (most likely carpools) for each of the five visits to neighboring faith communities in the Merrimack Valley and Greater Boston areas. Must attend a summer planning meeting with the teachers, visit coordinator and liaison to the RE Committee.

Junior Youth Group Co-leader

1 more co-leader needed

Four leaders divide responsibilities for the year, leading youth in grades 6-8 on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month in a variety of social action and community building activities. Returning co-leaders Alison Sparks and Sandy and Dave Bishop has already outlined plans for the year.

Junior Youth Group Assistant

7 assistants

Assistants help implement and chaperone the activities for JYG. Three assistants needed for fall, two for winter, and two for spring.

Senior Youth Group Co-leader

2 co-leaders

Two leaders lead youth in grades 9-12 on the 1st & 3rd Sunday evenings of the month in a variety of social action and community building activities.

Senior Youth Group Assistant

6 assistants

Assistants help implement and chaperone the activities for SYG. Two assistants needed for fall, two for winter, and two for spring.

OWL Facilitator

3 facilitators

Three trained facilitators teach *Our Whole Lives* curriculum to 8th graders on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Teachers will rotate so that two will attend each session. Training is available. *Our Whole Lives* helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. Volunteers must not be parents of youth in the class. <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/ourwhole/>

COA Mentor

4 mentors

Two male and two female mentors are needed to work with COA 9th graders in a small group format. Program is being redesigned over the summer – mentors are welcome to participate. Commitment will likely include a fall and a spring retreat and meetings on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Mentors must not be parents of youth in the class.

Social Action Projects

Volunteers lead children and youth in various social action projects, including the Ethiopian Sponsorship and Birthday in a Box.

RE Photographer

1 photographer

Volunteer helps with children's picture name tags and occasionally documents activities of children and youth for the RE bulletin board.

Religious Education (RE) Committee

The RE Committee is seeking additional members who are interested in guiding the content and implementation of the religious education program. Primary commitment is a monthly meeting; occasional projects or tasks are assigned to committee members.

Special Sundays Volunteer Coordinator

1 coordinator

Work with the RE Coordinator (to be hired) to secure volunteers to lead special multiage activities for the last Sunday of each month. Themes can include a particular interest or passion that an adult volunteer would like to share or integration with another committee or group in the church.

Special Sundays Assistant

4 assistants

Help implement Special Sunday activities on the last Sunday of each month. Teens or new North Parish visitors are encouraged to volunteer for this activity.

Children's Chapel Assistant

4 assistants

Attend and assist with activities planned and led by Laura Howell on the first Sunday of each month. Teens or new visitors are encouraged to volunteer for this activity.

Step 1 – Indicate Your Volunteer Preference:

For the collaborative nature of the Religious Education program to succeed, we ask all parents with children enrolled in the RE Program to sign up for some volunteer commitment. **We also welcome and encourage the volunteer participation of other adults or teens in the congregation.** Please indicate the area(s) you are interested in assisting in below. The RE Committee will be contacting you in August with greater details about the program year ahead and the commitment we will be asking of you.

Volunteer #1: _____

- Teaching Grades PreK-5 Sunday Morning
- Neighboring Faiths Teacher
- Neighboring Faiths Visit Coordinator
- Neighboring Faiths Transportation Coordinator
- Junior Youth Group Co-leader
- Junior Youth Group Assistant
- Senior Youth Group Co-leader
- Senior Youth Group Assistant
- OWL Facilitator
- COA Mentor
- Social Action Projects
- RE Photographer
- Religious Education (RE) Committee
- RE Program Administration
- Special Sundays Volunteer Coordinator
- Special Sunday/Children’s Chapel Assistant
- Special Sunday/Children’s Chapel Leader
This year’s examples included:
 - * Prayer Shawls
 - * Recycling/composting
 - * Music
 - * Storytelling
 - * Social Action (Birthday in a Box)

I am interested in:

Volunteer #2: _____

- Teaching Grades PreK-5 Sunday Morning
- Neighboring Faiths Teacher
- Neighboring Faiths Visit Coordinator
- Neighboring Faiths Transportation Coordinator
- Junior Youth Group Co-leader
- Junior Youth Group Assistant
- Senior Youth Group Co-leader
- Senior Youth Group Assistant
- OWL Facilitator
- COA Mentor
- Social Action Projects
- RE Photographer
- Religious Education (RE) Committee
- RE Program Administration
- Special Sundays Volunteer Coordinator
- Special Sunday/Children’s Chapel Assistant
- Special Sunday/Children’s Chapel Leader
This year’s examples included:
 - * Prayer Shawls
 - * Recycling/composting
 - * Music
 - * Storytelling
 - * Social Action (Birthday in a Box)

I am interested in:

All parents proceed to steps 2-3.



THE NORTH PARISH OF NORTH ANDOVER UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM 2009-2010

REGISTRATION FORM

Parent #1
Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

Cell phone: _____

Parent #2
Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

Cell phone: _____

CHILD (REN)'S NAMES FIRST	LAST	AGE (as of 9/2009)	DATE OF BIRTH	NURSERY/PRE-K/SCHOOL GRADE (as of 9/2009)

Step 2 – Select Your Child(ren)’s Program(s):

We are registering for (check all that apply):

- Nursery (ages 0-3 years) 9:00 service 11:00 service
- Sunday Morning Program (Grades PreK-5) 9:00 service 11:00 service
- Neighboring Faiths Program (Grades 6-7; 11:00 service only - 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month)
- OWL Sexuality Education Program (Grade 8; 11:00 service only - 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month)
- Junior Youth Group (Grades 6-8; 11:00 service only - 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month)
- Senior Youth Group (Grades 9-12; 1st & 3rd Sunday evenings of the month)
- Coming Of Age Program (Grade 9; Sunday mornings)

Step 3 – Pay:

Registration fee for ALL programs is \$30.00 per child (maximum \$60 per family).

Checks are made payable to *North Parish*; please indicate “RE Registration” on memo line. Waivers are available by contacting Rev. Lee Bluemel.

Registration fee is attached

Please bill me