

Religious Education Council Charter

MISSION:

To provide a meaningful, nurturing environment for our children, youth, and adults through programs that support them as they grow physically, mentally and spiritually. Together, we build Beloved Community and develop as leaders, free and creative thinkers, and productive citizens.

FUNCTION:

We recognize that Religious Education (RE) is all we do, everything we teach is Unitarian Universalism, and the Congregation IS the Curriculum. Therefore we endeavor to create whole congregation buy-in to RE, to contribute to meaningful multigenerational worship and opportunities, and to develop, implement, and evaluate an annual vision to support, oversee, and guide religious education programming that instills, inspires and fosters greater depth of understanding of Unitarian Universalist theology and identity.

DUTIES:

1. Recruit volunteers from the congregation to support and promote Sunday morning classes, special programs, and fellowship opportunities for adults, children, and families.
2. Support of youth development which shall include volunteer recruitment, oversight, planning, inspiration, and encouragement of youth activities, fellowship, and denominational activities throughout the Fellowship. Support the development of relationships between adult congregants and youth.
3. Work with the Director of Religious Education (DRE) and other RE Council members to assure smooth functioning of RE programs.
4. Provide ongoing training and support for volunteers.
5. Manage finances as conscientious stewards of RE budget(s) and make recommendations for future budgets.

ORGANIZATION:

1. The RE Council is a collaborative organization of the Program Council committees traditionally known as "Adult RE" and "Children's and Youth RE." As such, the Council has Co-Chairs, with one co-chair being responsible for RE focused on pre-Bridging participants and the other co-chair being responsible for RE that is focused on post-Bridging participants.
2. The Council will make recommendations to the Leadership Development Committee or the Board, as the case may be, as to the succession for the Co-Chairs.

3. The Council is composed of subcommittee chairs in addition to the co-chairs who shall be responsible for discrete roles, functions, and other duties set by the Council from year-to-year. The Council Co-Chairs and the subcommittee chairs comprise the voting members of the Council.
4. All voting members of the Council must be qualified in accordance with the RE safety policies, they must agree to approach the work with curiosity and a cooperative spirit, and they will be recruited with an aim to draw from the diverse qualities of the congregation.
5. The Council Co-Chairs represent the RE Council at Program Council meetings.
6. The DRE and Youth Director are ex officio members of the Council.
7. There shall be a RE Council retreat once per year for at least a half day.
8. The full RE Council generally meets bi-monthly, while the subcommittees led by the RE Council's members shall meet as needed. Official minutes and reports shall be retained by the DRE and shared, on request, with the Minister, the Board, or the Program Council.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Duties of All Voting Members of the Council:

- Support RE volunteers and recognize their contributions
- Recruit new volunteers by engaging congregants and finding their strengths and interests
- Attend Council Meetings bimonthly, or more if needed
- Chair the subcommittee of your specified portfolio, meeting monthly as a group.
- Submit a written subcommittee report as needed to the council at least 2 days prior to the council meeting.
- Attend the annual council retreat
- Assist in teacher recruitment and Council recruitment as needed

Non-Voting Members of the Council:

1. Director of Religious Education (DRE) (Church Staff) (ex officio Non-Voting Member of the Council):
 - Report on attendance, budgetary items, staff & volunteer trainings the state of the RE space, curricula, scheduling, fundraising, events, etc. as it pertains to RE
 - Report on all suggestions and feedback from congregants, visitors, and/or staff
 - Report on any compliance issues regarding fire code, fire marshal inspections, and the Abuse Prevention Policy
 - Attend staff meetings, and facilitate various trainings for volunteers and staff as it relates to RE

- Curriculum selection, design and implementation specific to each age group
 - Plan, organize, and structure special programs such as Coming of Age and Our Whole Lives.
2. Youth Director (Church Staff) (ex officio Non-Voting Member of the Council)
- Report on youth group activities, attendance, budgetary items, scheduling, fundraising, events, etc as it pertains to Youth Ministry
 - Plan, organize, and structure special programs for the Youth Group such as Cons, lock-ins, or field trips.
 - Recruits members of the Youth Group to participate in Program Council meetings.