

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHARTER  
(Effective Date: April 1, 1998)

I. NAME OF COMMITTEE: Religious Education Committee for Children and Youth

II. GUIDING RATIONALE:

In our religious education program, we, adults and young people, explore together ideas, ways of acting, and relationships, seeking to discover how these affect the world and our place in it. We learn about Unitarian Universalism and other religious traditions. As a part of UUCSS we value our strong and diverse community. We create a supportive environment for families and work hard to support the individual needs of all young people who come to our church. We are guided by our Unitarian Universalist purposes and principles. Our goal is to nurture growth in spirit, mind, and body, guiding the individual toward wholeness, responsibility, wonder, and delight.

III. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Committee is chartered by the Board of Trustees as a standing committee. The chair shall be a designated member of the Program Council. The Committee shall be responsible for: planning, oversight and continuity of the educational program for children and youth, in consultation with the Director of Religious Education; facilities and equipment planning and evaluation; recruitment of teachers and other program support volunteers; coordination and volunteer recruitment for the Sunday service nursery; annual program budget request; facilitating parent/teacher/congregation contacts and communications.

IV. MEMBERSHIP, APPOINTMENTS, AND TERMS OF SERVICE:

The Committee shall consist of up to nine members, recruited by current members and appointed by the chair. A chair and vice chair shall be selected from among Committee members and report to the Program Council. Committee members shall serve two-year terms and are limited to two consecutive terms. After serving two terms, individuals may be reappointed after one year off the Committee. The chair and vice chair shall serve two years. Individuals who serve less than six months as a replacement member may still serve two full terms. Terms shall begin in January. The Committee may organize itself into subcommittees and ad hoc committees as needed to fulfill its responsibilities.

V. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:

The Committee shall hold open meetings at least once per month from August through June. All incoming, outgoing, and continuing committee members shall participate in an annual planning retreat held in January.

VI. SPECIFIC TASKS AND REPORTING SCHEDULE:

The Committee will:

A. Develop and submit to the Program Council a calendar (September-June) of religious education activities which either enhance or supplement the Sunday religious education programs for children and youth. These activities may include special Sunday service programming, such as teacher dedication, and holiday or special events.

B. Designate one member to serve as a liaison to the Worship Committee in order to coordinate calendars and to contribute to the development of intergenerational worship services.

C. Recruit and support teachers for the Sunday religious education program for children and youth, ages three through high school.

D. Serve as UUCSS contact for Campus Ministry and programs for youth through age 21.

E. Coordinate the nursery care provided during Sunday services for children, infants through age two.

F. Review the DRE's annual budget request and incorporate it, with amendments and recommendations as necessary, in an annual committee budget submitted to the Program Council for approval by the Board of Trustees. The budget is submitted in the spring for the following calendar year.

G. Review grade-level curricula at least once every two years.

H. Recruit committee members as needed.

The Chair will:

A. Submit a report on the Committee's activities for inclusion in the Annual Report to the Congregation.

B. Serve as supervisor of the Director of Religious Education with the Chair of the Adult Religious Education Committee. The supervisor shall participate in an annual review of the DRE's performance, job description, and conditions of employment each spring.