

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem

## Family Responsibilities

Welcome to the Religious Exploration (RE) Ministry at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem. We hope all families who walk through our doors will find our congregation to be a place where they are nurtured spiritually, intellectually and emotionally.

Our Sunday morning programs for youth and children are organized and administrated by paid professional staff, but volunteers from within our Unitarian Universalist congregation are the ones who make our ministry happen. Our volunteers teach, mentor, chaperone social activities and offer their numerous talents in many wonderful ways. To ensure that all adults, children and youth are safe in our religious exploration ministry, the religious exploration staff complete background checks for our volunteers and offer training to all who interact regularly with the children and youth in our ministry. We do our best to make sure that two adult volunteers are present in all religious exploration classes on Sunday mornings and that everyone follows practices that allow for a safe and respectful environment. If you have questions about our practices, please do not hesitate to talk to the Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration.

*If you should choose to enroll your child(ren) in our religious exploration programming, and fill out our registration form, we hope you will agree to accept the following responsibilities:*

Encourage regular attendance in our Sunday morning program. We realize that there are occasions when families are unable to be at UUCS, but please attend as consistently as possible. Our experience is that children and youth feel greater ease, participate more readily and can build deeper community when they do so.

Make a financial contribution to the annual stewardship campaign. In most cases we do not charge any fees, rather we rely on your heartfelt pledge that provides funds to the Religious Education Committee operating budget. All gifts, no matter what size, are welcome.

Support the Religious Exploration Family Covenant. We ask that you review the covenant with your family. We hope it will help you to know about the promises we make for how we will be together in this community.

Volunteer to help with the program – there are many opportunities. You are welcome to volunteer at any time in any area, but you will not be asked to lead an RE class until you have participated in a UU congregation for one year.

Please stay on the UUCS premises while your child(ren) are attending church school or inform RE Staff that you are designating another adult to be responsible for your child(ren) in your absence. Be sure to pick up your child(ren) under 6<sup>th</sup> grade from classes after the service so our volunteers know their students will be safe and supervised when church school ends.

Keep the RE Staff and appropriate RE volunteers informed of any allergies or medical conditions that your child(ren) may have, and update home and parental information regularly on our registration form.