

# Religious Education Purpose, Path, and Plan

Over the course of several weeks in December 2014 and January 2015, Jack met with members of the Religious Education Committee to work on visioning for our Religious Education program. On January 11, 2015, the Religious Education Committee voted to approve the following outcomes:

1. **Our Statement of Purpose:** The vision our program strives to reach.
2. **Our Statement of Path:** The goals along the way.
3. **Our Tactics Plan:** The ways and activities to fulfill the goals.

## Purpose

Our purpose in the Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg's Religious Education program is to foster the full spiritual and faith development of children and youth so that they may lead healthy, happy, helpful lives.

## Path

Our program encourages exploration of humanity's wisdom traditions and involvement in our church and community.

## Tactics Plan

We plan to fulfill our goals with a variety of activities and instruction in support of Unitarian Universalist principles, including:

- Tapestry of Faith curricula
- Yoga/meditation instruction
- Activities coordinated with other UUSP ministries
- World religion instruction
- Science-based activities
- First Questions program
- Youth Group gatherings
- Our Whole Lives instruction
- Coming of Age curricula
- Covenant Group/Interest Group gatherings for parents

## Resources Plan

As an intermediate step towards full support of our planned activities, the RE Committee recommends a two-part resource plan:

1. Hire a part-time RE Coordinator.
2. Provide paid and volunteer staffing for at least two RE classes.

### RE Coordinator

The RE Coordinator would be a part-time position, entailing 6-10 hours per week. Responsibilities would include:

- Working with the minister and RE Committee on program visioning and planning
- Researching curricula
- Scheduling RE classes
- Preparing lesson plans
- Procuring materials for each class
- Preparing handouts for each class
- Guiding and supporting instructors
- Recruiting and training volunteers
- Teaching occasional classes
- Developing and implementing policies and procedures
- Coordinating activities with other UUSP ministries
- Serving as a consistent representative of our RE program

### Multiple RE Classes

We are serving our core group of 7- to 11-year-olds well with our one-room schoolhouse approach. However, we continue to struggle to meet the needs of visiting families with younger kids (ages 2-5) as well as youth (ages 14 and up).

Staffing for multiple classes would require:

- One instructor per class (paid or volunteer)
- One assistant instructor per class (paid or volunteer)
- A shared classroom assistant (volunteer)