

First Parish of Sudbury, Unitarian Universalist

In search of 20 hr/week Director of Religious Education

Do you love to work with children and youth? Do you have a good sense of humor? Do you have the desire to create a program for Sunday Religious Education? First Parish of Sudbury is looking for someone with that spark of adventure and the energy to make it happen.

What we have to offer and what sets us apart:

- Opportunity to be innovative and create your own programming.
- Encouraged to participate and be creative in Sunday worship.
- There is flexibility in the schedule and working some hours from home is an option.
- RE committee is filled with fun-loving people who are committed and experienced but ready to have the new DRE take the lead.
- We are a liberal congregation with a diversity of beliefs and supportive of religious exploration. You will be a valuable member of this community.
- We are committed to “Living Our Faith” and sharing our values in the larger community.
- We are a congregation that enjoys multigenerational connection through worship, social justice, and programming.

First Parish of Sudbury, Unitarian Universalist (FPS) is a Welcoming Congregation located 22 miles west of Boston seeking candidates for the Director of Religious Education (DRE) – 20 hours per week position focusing on children from birth through 8th grade.

Size of Congregation: 154 members, 22 children

Religious Education (RE) Program Mission & Goals: The Staff at FPS functions as a team where each member has an individual ministry. We see the whole congregation’s ministry as religious exploration. We are learning and exploring moral, spiritual, ethical and religious issues all the time.

Description of RE Program:

We have a small, intimate RE program offering Sunday morning programming for infants through middle school, including Spirit Play and UU Explorers and Our Whole Lives.

Responsibilities: Love for and patience with children of all ages, and an understanding that not all children learn the same way or develop at the same pace. Ability to modify and adapt individual lessons and general curricula to follow the interests, meet the needs and maximize the engagement of all children as necessary. Good relational, organizational, administrative, and volunteer management skills. Must be able to listen well and communicate effectively. Delegation skills, the ability to motivate people, and effective use of teamwork are critical. Initiative, ability to encourage others, knowledge of religious education philosophy and Unitarian Universalist curricula is necessary.

Responsibilities: It is understood that the various facets of this job will be accomplished as time and talents allow.

- o Recruit, develop, coordinate, and support volunteers, with the help of the R.E. Committee
- o In collaboration with the CORI administrator, ensure all volunteers have been CORI checked
- o Coordinate and develop RE curriculum across the age-groups and learning differences
- o Provide leadership for RE Committee for goal setting and development of philosophy of religious growth and learning across the age groups (possibly including adults as program grows)
- o In collaboration with the Marketing & Communication Coordinator, publicize RE program to FPS congregation and larger community through the use of the FPS website, e-mail, and other social media platforms
- o Work with Minister and other lay leaders to attract new families to FPS and help to grow the congregation and RE program.
- o Administer RE budget, maintain RE files & records
- o Publish Religious Education brochure/prospectus
- o Maintain and manage RE resources, supplies & equipment
- o With Minister and RE Committee, plan & participate in special & intergenerational events such as Youth Sunday, Rites of Passage, and community outreach events
- o Attend district and area religious education conferences and workshops
- o Meet with the Minister on a weekly basis to better coordinate the RE program with the overall education and ministry of FPS.
- o Attend meetings of the RE Committee, Staff and others as required
- o Provide counsel to FPS children and families as requested
- o Maintain appropriate professional standards of fairness and confidentiality
- o Demonstrate skill in interpersonal relations and group dynamics; ability to listen and communicate effectively with staff, church leadership, children and their families as well as RE volunteers

Knowledge/Experience/Skills/Abilities Desired:

Communicates well with children and youth

Engages people positively, with a demeanor of optimism and abundance

Commitment to providing programming accessible to children with a variety of learning styles and abilities

Spiritual Maturity: Has a commitment to spiritual journey

Interpersonal Skills: Demonstrates the ability to lead, encourage and motivate others.

Demonstrates the skills of active listening and openly accepts feedback

Productively engages and manages interpersonal conflict

Works independently

Holds others accountable in a spirit of love

Excellent writing and speaking skills

Demonstrated ability to keep confidences and know when and to whom to make referrals

Minimum requirements:

College degree, preferably in a field related to education, religion, child development or human services

Experience in education, teaching, children and youth services, and/or religious education
Knowledge of UU faith, history, and fluency with curricula and other religious education resources

Accountability: The Director of Religious Education directly reports to the Minister and is accountable to the RE Committee.

Compensation: Salary and benefits commensurate with experience and qualifications, and consistent with UUA Fair Compensation Guidelines

Go to www.FPSudbury.org for more information about our congregation

Please send a resume and letter of interest to:

DREsearch@FPSudbury.org and minister@FPSudbury.org

New DRE to begin August 1, 2021 in preparation for 2021-2022 RE year, which runs September 7, 2021 through June 2022.