

Job Announcement/Description
Director of Lifespan Religious Education
First Unitarian Universalist Society in Newton, MA

The First Unitarian Universalist Society in Newton (FUUSN) seeks a full-time religious educator to lead and inspire our active, diverse Lifespan Religious Education Program. As a leader of our congregation, the Director of Lifespan Religious Education will work collaboratively with our Senior Minister, Music Director, and staff in developing worship and integrating religious education into worship activities, and administering the program.

The Director provides leadership on all aspects of FUUSN's religious education programming. With primary focus on the management, growth, and evolution of our Lifespan Religious Education Program, both within FUUSN and within the larger community, the Director, in conjunction with the Senior Minister, will also provide oversight and guidance in the spiritual development of children, youth, and adults.

In recent years our congregation has been expanding its understanding of Lifespan Religious Education and the importance of connections across ages. The Youth Ministry has grown deeper, and a task force recently explored the status and desires of Adult Faith Development at FUUSN. Families are engaged and the religious education programs are both healthy and open to new ideas. We seek a leader who will continue this process, nurturing a LRE Program that intentionally builds community, while supporting the development of UU identity and spiritual growth. This position requires strong interpersonal skills, organization, program management, volunteer coordination, and the ability to work well with people of all ages. We expect qualified candidates to have experience in religious education, knowledge of education principles and practices, and a strong understanding of and commitment to UU principles. Experience in recruiting, cultivating, and inspiring volunteers is necessary to be successful in this position.

Accountability:

- Reports directly to the Senior Minister
- Directly supervises the Assistant Director of Religious Education (25 hours/week), the Youth Programs Coordinator (15 hours/week), and other paid staff, including the nursery room teachers and youth teachers.
- Is responsive to the needs of key volunteer stakeholders responsible for implementation of core LRE programs (LRE Committee members, Coming of Age Coordinators, Youth Circle Members, and Adult Faith Development coordinators)

Responsibilities:

- Lead and manage our Lifespan Religious Education Programs, including Children's RE (approximately 85 children), Coming of Age (10–15 eighth graders), Youth Group (20-30 high school students), and Adult Faith Development (approximately 400 members). This includes recruiting and training volunteer teachers and program leaders, organizing RE related worship services (RE Sunday Service, Youth Service, Coming of Age Graduation Service, and Children's Chapel Services), preparing and overseeing the LRE Program budget and attending regular meetings with the LRE Committees, LRE staff, church staff, Operations Council, Board of Trustees, and the Senior Minister.
- Foster community within the LRE Program and enhance integration across the LRE Programs and the larger FUUSN community. This includes developing written materials that communicate information about the LRE Program.
- In collaboration with the Senior Minister and Music Director, develop and plan worship services throughout the year, focusing on multigenerational participation and spiritual development.
- Consider, lift up, and support the racial identities, sexual orientations, disabilities, differences, and gifts present in our congregation.

Experience, Credentials, and Skills:

- Religious background including knowledge of and enthusiasm for liberal religious education, Unitarian Universalist curricula, and a commitment to Unitarian Universalism.
- Experience as a religious education leader at an active congregation with a lifespan learning program.
- Experience with and understanding of Youth and Youth Ministry..
- Bachelor's degree, preferably in a related field (i.e. education, social work, religious studies). Master's degree or applicable experience a plus.

The successful candidate will also demonstrate the following skills and attributes:

- Ability to effectively organize, direct, manage, motivate, and work collaboratively with highly skilled professional staff (paid and volunteer).
- Strong ability to relate to and communicate with children, youth, and adults.
- Conversant with educational methodology for various styles of learning and for all age

groups.

- An articulated philosophy of education and congregational life and knowledge of congregational dynamics.
- Ability to handle a wide variety of tasks, to determine priorities, and to meet deadlines.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, including in person, email, and phone.
- Strong computer skills, especially with Google Suite.

Salary:

Commensurate with experience and credentials. FUUSN is a fair compensation congregation and will pay within the UUA recommended salary range for a mid-size congregation in Geo Index 5.

Benefits:

- Employer-paid health insurance, long-term disability coverage, retirement, and 3-month sabbatical after 5 years, per the terms of the respective plans.
- 11 paid holidays.
- Other paid time off as provided for from time to time according to FUUSN's personnel policies.

Contact and Due Date:

Send or email letter of interest and resume to the following name and address by May 18, 2018 to ensure consideration for this position. We will accept applications after that date but do not guarantee consideration.

First Unitarian Universalist Society in Newton, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton, MA 02465 Attention: Susan Bartlett, Chair, DLRE Search Committee

Email address: dlresearch@fusn.org

www.FUSN.org

Deadline: May 18, 2018