

## **The Religious Education Committee**

### Purpose:

To ensure that the children and youth of First Parish have the opportunity to participate in a quality religious education experience that fosters their spiritual development and builds community.

### Tasks/Responsibilities include:

#### Advocacy

- Communicate information about the RE program to members of the congregation and encourage all members to support the RE program.
- Provide leadership in promoting a cooperative philosophy in which families share time and talent to support the RE program as well as encourage families to make fair-share pledges.
- Work with the DRE to develop an annual RE budget proposal and present proposal to Finance Committee.
- Advocate for adequate resources and workload for the DRE and Youth Coordinator positions.
- Network with other churches
- Attend district/denominational conferences and workshops

#### Administration and Planning

- Work closely with the DRE to develop a vision for the RE program.
- Work closely with the DRE to coordinate the RE program including developing annual goals, policies and procedures.
- Approve decisions on program structure, curricula, yearly calendar and classroom management.
- Assist the DRE in managing program resources.
- Coordinate volunteer recruitment for teachers, special event planning teams and other volunteers.
- Assist DRE with class registration

- Review, approve and monitor the RE budget
- Assist in evaluation of the program

#### Classroom and Worship Support

- Committee members serve as liaisons to teaching teams
- Assist DRE in appreciating teachers and other volunteers
- One committee member coordinates the Wheel of the Year services (6 per year) with support from DRE and ministers
- One committee member serves as liaison to youth group and helps the Youth Coordinator develop a Youth-Adult Council to provide support to youth group and junior youth group programming. The Youth-Adult Council will consist of youth group members, volunteer youth advisors and supportive adults.
- Committee members provide Sunday morning coverage for the DRE once a month (Sept-May)

#### Community Building

- Work with DRE to ensure families are greeted on Sunday mornings
- Assist the DRE in providing resources to families
- Providing community for children and families by organizing social events, retreats and special events such as Santa's Workshop

#### Responsibilities of Chair (or Co-chairs):

- Chair sets the agenda in coordination with DRE.
- Chair facilitates monthly meetings.
- Chair serves as a contact person for parents, teachers and congregation.
- Chair provides leadership to ensure committee fulfills assigned tasks.
- Chair assists in the evaluation of the DRE.
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Structure:

- 8 members
- 2 year terms
- Maximum 3 consecutive terms for members
- Chair serves for 2 years, maximum 2 consecutive terms for chair

In addition to the RE Committee, many volunteers are needed including teachers, Youth-Adult Council members, event planning groups and retreat planning groups.