

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
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**PRAIRIE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
CURRICULA SUMMARY FOR 2005-2006**

Religious Education generally follows a three-year rotation of curricula theme:

World Religions
UU-ism: Principles and History
Peace and Justice

The focus in 2005-2006 will be on **Peace and Justice**, as presented in the *In Our Hands* and *Race To Justice* programs and as practiced in the *Playing With Fire* material. We will tie this theme to our Service Sunday (in October) as our classes do community-oriented projects. Our YoUUth Circles, the first Sunday of each month, loosely follow a theme of Justice in Relations.

This year, classes will be referring to the curriculum "In Our Hands." It is a UUA Standard with age-appropriate learning guides; however, some of course publications are out of print, so we're adding lessons and activities from other resources. The *Race to Justice* and *Playing with Fire* are recent, fully developed programs. Several of our classes will participate in two-month presentations of the *Our Whole Lives (OWL)* program, a current faith-based perspective on gender and sexuality topics. One class will use a curriculum developed at Prairie Society, adding supplemental curricula and materials as teachers and families desire.

IN OUR HANDS: A Peace and Justice Program

"...The objective of peace and justice education is peacemaking and justice-building. It engages people to stimulate and encourage their development as makers of peace and justice: within their own psyches, in their relationships with others, in their roles as citizens of a nation and members of a religious group, and in their identification as humans living on the earth." From curriculum introduction.

The curricula have lesson plans for most of the year, but not completely. Teachers (with assistance of the DRE and RE Committee) will supplement the lessons with the material described above, develop one or more relevant service projects, and work with the youth to use their own creativity and goals for lesson plans. RE at Prairie is a unique opportunity for kids and adults to work together to achieve their goals.

Nursery does not follow a curriculum or use lesson plans. Safe and enjoyable activities are offered from 9:50 through 11:50 for every Sunday morning that has a service at Prairie.

Pre-School uses the Prairie Pre-School Curriculum, including Justice & Compassion, Search for Meaning in your Life, We Share the Air, and Conflict Collage.

K-1-2 includes Affirming the Worth of Self and Others, Exploring One's Own Experience, Exploring Friends and Enemies, Working for a Peaceful World, a Peace Quilt project, and OWL for 8 weeks.

3-4-5 includes Earth Awareness and OWL for 8 weeks.

Middle School includes The Utopian Society, Prejudice and -isms, War and Peace, Peace and Justice--the UU Story and Vision, Beginning a Peace and Justice Project, Exploring Politics, and Protest

High School includes Peace and Justice Issues Facing Our Generation, Conflict Resolution, and OWL for 8 weeks. Students have much autonomy in this class.

College Age students are encouraged to be active in MUUYACM, District activities, and our adult services.

Adults: a program is offered in the *In Our Hands* curriculum along with classes that include conflict management styles and guidelines for win/win conflict resolution.