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"Every religious tradition on which we draw has a reverence for life. We are a part of an intricate web of life. Every tradition on which we draw teaches that the ultimate expression of our spirituality is our action. Deep spirituality leads to action in the world. A deep reverence for life, love of nature's complex beauty and sense of intimate connection with the cosmos leads inevitably to a commitment to work for environmental and social justice."

- Peter Morales, UUA President

Unless we know the value of other religious traditions, it is difficult to develop respect for them. Mutual respect is the foundation of genuine harmony. We should strive for a spirit of harmony, not for political or economic reasons, but rather simply because we realize the value of other traditions.

- His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

"Unitarian Universalism offers us a faith that challenges our energy usage and confronts us with hunger and injustice around the world without giving inadequate simplistic answers. It offers the harder path of respect for all beings and for the Earth, and calls us to be accountable for our actions. We are responsible for our own spirituality, our own salvation, and for doing all that we can to make the world better. "

- UU minister Rev. Bob Klein



## 2010-2011 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### *World Religions*

*Baha'ism Buddhism Christianity*

*Confucianism Hinduism Islam*

*Jainism Judaism Sikhism Taoism*

*Unitarian Universalism Wicca*

*Shintoism Zoroastrianism*

### **Judaism**

What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. This is the whole Torah; all the rest is commentary. *Hillel*, **Talmud, Shabbat 31a**

### **Sikhism**

I am a stranger to no one; and no one is a stranger to me. Indeed, I am a friend to all. **Guru Granth Sahib, page 1299**

### **Taoism**

Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain and your neighbor's loss as your own loss. *Lao Tzu, T'ai Shang Kan Ying P'ien, 213-218*

### **Zoroastrianism**

Do not do unto others whatever is injurious to yourself. **Shayast-na-Shayast 13.29**

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## The Golden Rule

### Unitarian Universalism

We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

#1 of the seven UU principles

### Baha'i

Lay not on any soul a load that you would not wish to be laid upon you, and desire not for anyone the things you would not desire for yourself. *Baha'u'llah, Gleanings*

### Buddhism

Treat not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful. *The Buddha, Udana Varga 5:18*

### Christianity

In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. *Jesus, Gospel of Matthew 7:12*

### Confucianism

One word which sums up the basis of all good conduct...loving-kindness. Do not do to others what you do not want done to you. *Confucius, Analects, 15.23*

### Hinduism

This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you. *Mahabharata 5:1517*

### Islam

Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself.

*The Prophet Muhammad, 13th of the 40 Hadiths of Nawawi*

### Jainism

One should treat all creatures in the world as one would like to be treated. *Mahavira, Suttrakritanga*

**This is the church  
of the open mind.**

**This is the church  
of the loving heart.**

**This is the church  
of the helping  
hands.**

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT PRAIRIE UU**

Our Religious Education (RE) program serves infants through adolescents. Nursery care is provided for infants and toddlers. Religious instruction is offered for preschool through high school.

The program is held on Sunday mornings from 10:00 to 11:15 am. from September to June, concurrent with the adult service. Summer RE programming is flexible, with an emphasis on playing together rather than lessons.

A wide variety of activities are meant to make learning interesting and enjoyable, while also building community and bettering the world around us. We often play or work outside or get messy inside, so children should be dressed accordingly on Sunday mornings. Children are encouraged to be full participants in the program, sharing their ideas and opinions and using their creativity.

### **STAY INFORMED!**

Take a few minutes to join the Prairie News group: [groups.yahoo.com/group/prairienews/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairienews/) You will need to create a Yahoo account, if you don't have one already. You will not receive more than a few messages a week from this news group. (This is the best way to keep informed of last-minute schedule changes).

[Check our website regularly: http://uuprairie.org/re/](http://uuprairie.org/re/)

If you don't have internet access, check the RE bulletin board in our lobby (near the stairs).

And, of course, check in with your child's teacher regularly.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Director of Religious Education:** Rebecca Malke  
(youthcoordinator@uuprairie.org)

**RE Committee Chair:** Robin Proud (derrproud@att.net)

## **GUIDELINES FOR PRAIRIE UU STUDENTS**

Prairie's a special place where we treat each other especially well. We try to act according to our UU principles:

### **WE BELIEVE THAT EACH PERSON IS IMPORTANT**

So we include any kids who wish to join a conversation or activity. We listen to each other without interrupting, and we don't tease, yell, swear, or use put-downs.

### **WE SHOULD BE KIND IN ALL WE DO**

We treat each other as we would like to be treated: we ask before using someone else's stuff, and we don't have side conversations, use electronic gadgets, or pester each other during class. We recognize that no sexual activity is appropriate at Prairie, including fondling or kissing.

### **THAT WE'RE FREE TO LEARN TOGETHER**

We participate in group activities and focus on learning together, showing respect to adult leaders (if we object to some directions, we question them politely).

### **WE'RE FREE TO SEARCH FOR WHAT IS TRUE**

We don't make fun of others' opinions, though we may question them. We share our own thoughts and opinions with others, confident that they will treat us with respect.

### **ALL PEOPLE NEED A VOICE**

We share our opinions with people who are planning activities. We may choose not to participate in a group activity or rejoin the adult(s) who brought us.

### **IN BUILDING A FAIR AND FREE WORLD**

We keep each other safe: we don't hit or push each other. We don't throw or shoot things except as part of adult-approved games. We use fire only with adult supervision and we don't play with a lit chalice or put things in it.

### **IN CARING FOR OUR PLANET EARTH**

We're careful with our supplies and property. We don't waste materials or destroy things. We all help clean up our area after an activity and recycle what can be recycled.

## HOW FAMILIES SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM

We ask you, as a parent, to support your child's participation in the RE program in many ways:

Communicate any special needs or concerns about your child to the Youth Religious Education Coordinator (YREC) and your child's teacher.

Be available throughout the time your child is with us so you can be reached if problems arise. Be ready to take care of your child if illness or a behavior problem makes them unable to stay in class or the activity.

Help your child understand the expectations for his/her behavior, and how to comply with these.

Support your child's teacher or adult volunteer in the event of a discipline issue.

Keep abreast of the RE schedule of activities (refer to *Stay Informed!* on the first page of this booklet for more information)

Prairie UU Society is a volunteer-led society, and parents have a crucial role in the program's functioning. We need parents to commit to support the program in at least one of the following ways:

Serve as an aide in RE for two 1-month periods

Co-teach (teach every other week)

Lead activities and chaperone one overnight

Pay a \$50 fee

Serve on the RE Committee, organizing activities and volunteers.

If you serve as a teacher or volunteer in the program, we may do a background check on you.

## SPECIAL RE TRADITIONS

### Social Events

Social events are cherished traditions for many of our kids. Children may invite a guest to any of these events. Social events include:

*Fall Parish Retreat*, fun for all ages

*Overnights* for kids at the Prairie meeting house

*Summer Spree*, a weekend-long out-of-town retreat for 6th grade through high school

*Summer Splash*, an end-of-summer family pool party

### Intergenerational Services

Several of our Sunday services each year are designed to involve children of all ages.

### Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Every third year or so, Prairie offers age-appropriate human sexuality education, using the Our Whole Lives curriculum developed jointly by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and United Church of Christ (UCC).

### Service Sundays

About once a month throughout the school year, RE classes come together on Sunday morning to work on a community service project.

### Spirit Circles

The first Sunday of each month, children of all ages and their teachers start their Sunday morning time together in one big group to share song, movement, and fun. This year, we will try something new: Spirit Circles will be held outdoors in the yard.

## THIS YEAR'S CLASSES

### THIS YEAR'S THEME

*WORLD RELIGIONS* will teach our young people to respect the religious beliefs of others and to explore the sources of their own beliefs. Our program will:

- Introduce our youth to the stories and teachings of the great traditions of humanity
- Teach students to be able to compare and contrast their beliefs with that of other traditions
- Help children gain a better understanding of the beliefs of people in their community as well as strengthen their own understanding of UU principles

The RE theme planned for 2011-12, Social Justice; for 2012-2013, Our UU Principles and Heritage

### **Nursery: Infant through about age 2 ½**

**Childcare providers: Xena Anderson**

Our youngest children are cared for from 9:50 to 11:45 am each Sunday when there is a service at the Prairie meeting house. We provide a safe and fun atmosphere. Crafts, stories, play and snacks are part of the activities.

### **Preschool/Kindergarten: ages 2 ½ to 5**

**Text: *Celebrating Me and My World***

**Teachers: Yvonne Hiebert and Carl Wacker**

This full-year curriculum celebrates the wondrous qualities of children and the animals, objects and people around them. Provides preschoolers with the experiences and opportunities to grow in trust and caring and to develop their self-identity and sense of connectedness with all of life.

([www.rec-room.org/map/preschool/01001.html](http://www.rec-room.org/map/preschool/01001.html))

### **Grades 1-3**

**Text: *Special Times***

**Teachers: Ruth Calden and Patty Stockdale**

Acquaints children with the Jewish and Christian heritages (which are central to our culture) and engages them in celebrating Jewish and Christian holidays and other "special times" such as the Shabbat/Sabbath, Thanksgiving, and everybody's birthday. They will experience these celebrations through art, music, stories, discussion, and sometimes food! (<http://uuu.org>)

### **Grades 4-5**

**Text: *Who was Jesus and Jesus and His Kingdom of Equals: Jesus' Radical Path to Love and Justice***

**Teachers: Robin Proud and Mary Frantz**

A mood of inquiry runs through these lessons, as students and teachers together consider the life and words of a Jewish peasant of 2000 years ago who lived so simply and yet whose impact so affected the course of Western history. We study Jesus today as we would other great religious prophets, because his ideas about *radical non-violence* (Do not turn against the one who wrongs you), *fairness* (Let the one who is perfect cast the first stone), and *equality* (Suffer the children to come unto me) are as vital and important for contemporary society as they were two millennia ago.

(<http://archive.uua.org/re/reach/curriculum/kingdom.html>)

### **Grades 7-12**

**Text: *Neighboring Faiths*, plus additional texts**

**Teachers: Dan Proud and Robyn Perrin**

Inspired by the UU classic, Church Across the Street, this yearlong curriculum helps youth learn about their own Faith and other faith traditions through interactive experience such as field trips and interviews. These encounters with other religions are given meaning through periods of reflection and discussion about Unitarian Universalist and personal beliefs and values. (<http://uuu.org>)