

-Job Announcement-

Interim Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration
First Parish in Milton, Unitarian Universalist
www.fpmilton.org

“We welcome all to build a just and healthy world, with faith, love, and compassion.”

First Parish in Milton, Unitarian Universalist is a vibrant, engaging, civic-minded congregation seeking a full-time Interim Religious Exploration Director to help guide us through a two-year journey of discovery, experimentation and congregational involvement in re-envisioning our Religious Exploration program for all ages. The position is slated to begin in August 2021.

This position presents an opportunity to help our congregation innovate dynamic change and create a religious exploration model, inclusive of lifespan faith development, family ministry and intergenerational programming. We are seeking an individual who brings a collaborative spirit, strong administrative skills, and the interim perspective to the role. People of all genders, ethnicities and/or with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Compensation for this position is in the UUA recommended lower midrange for commensurate levels of RE experience or certification, offering the array of benefits delineated in the UUA fair compensation guidelines. We are in Geo Index 6.

Purpose of Position:

- To assist in re-envisioning and developing a lifespan religious exploration model that engages inter-age and intergenerational deepening in community.
- To work in a supervised relationship with the Minister, collegial relationship with the professional staff, and a collaborative relationship with church leadership.
- To provide primary management and supervision of the RE assistant, nursery staff and volunteers in the areas as described in “Duties and Responsibilities” below.

Accountability: Reports to the Minister, Monthly reports to the Parish Committee

Supervises: RE assistant, Nursery staff and all volunteer staff in the areas of primary responsibility

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Manage the work of Children and Youth Religious Exploration in conjunction with the RE Committee.

- Administrate the present RE program, inclusive of recruiting, orienting and supporting teaching volunteers, coordinating materials
- Help coordinate Intergenerational, RE and/or Youth Worship Services in conjunction with the Minister and Worship Committee
- Propose and manage program budget in this area in communication with the RE Committee
- Facilitate congregational compliance with our Safe Congregation policies, including teacher safety training and background checks.

2. Lifespan Religious Exploration

Work with the Minister and volunteers to help develop Family Ministry and Adult Spiritual/Faith Development Programming

- Develop, innovate and implement programming designed to inspire families to commit to and experience spiritual deepening and relational growth in community.
- Help coordinate Adult Spiritual Development/Religious Education with other program areas including, but not limited to, Children and Youth Religious Education and Family Ministry

3. Interim Guidance

Assist the Minister, Church Leadership and Congregation in evaluating and innovating new ways to “do church” as a vibrant, intergenerational beloved community.

- Work with an adaptive change working group with an eye toward innovating RE programming
- Advocate for and regularly communicate programming and the flow and/or progression of re-envisioning RE programming
- Willingness to experiment, try new things, learn from the process and encourage the same in the congregation

Qualifications/Skills:

- Agreement with Unitarian Universalist principles required
- Proven organizational skills
- Proven written and oral communication skills
- Proven ability to work effectively with individuals and groups of diverse age, ethnicity, sexual orientation and religious beliefs
- Experience in collaborative work with staff and volunteers
- Professional and/or volunteer supervisory experience strongly preferred
- Adherence to principles of Safe Congregation Policies

Cover letter and resumes should be sent to dresearch@fpmilton.org by March 25, 2021. Thank you for your interest! We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Description of our Church:

First Parish is located on the town green and has substantive visibility in the civic life of the town. As a historic congregation in a historic building (c.1678), we are mindful of the responsibility of being one of the “churches on the green”. Our membership consists approximately of 180 adult members and 40 children and youth.

We have a long history of social action and justice initiatives, are a Welcoming Congregation and proclaim through growing visibility and activism, that Black Lives Matter. We strive for equity, diversity, pluralism, and inclusiveness throughout our congregational life. We have a vibrant music program which includes sponsoring a town-wide concert series, named “Milton Community Concerts”.

The congregation’s religious education program was nurtured for the last five years by Laurel Whitehouse, a well-regarded UU religious educator who is retiring. As a result, the RE program has a solid administrative base and dedicated volunteers, which will help give time to innovate, while continuing programming.

We are challenged with diminishing membership of families with school age children. We recognize that this is not a symptom of curriculum, but a need to re-envision how we engage in and welcome multi-generational community, how, indeed, we learn and grow in faith together.

We have a small but mighty group of RE volunteers ready to help administrate the RE programming for children and youth, through teaching and coordinating intergenerational events and activities. Family and adult faith development are now facilitated periodically by the minister and/or volunteers. This is an area of growth for the community.

Our staff team is collaborative as is our work with church leadership.

