



January 2018 Report to the Board of Trustees  
First Unitarian Society of Westchester  
Tracy Breneman, Part-Time Director of Religious Education  
Submitted January 8, 2018

The 2017 – 2018 RE calendar, class schedules and FUSW curriculum maps are listed online. You are welcome to view them at any time. [Click here.](#)

### **Request for Board Discussion**

The Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) is pursuing increased voice for religious educators within our Unitarian Universalist Association. Currently, religious educators do not have delegate status at the annual General Assembly if they are not Credentialed or not members of the congregation they serve (not being a member of the congregation we serve is recommended by LREDA's best practices). Thus, most religious educators are not delegates at the annual UUA General Assembly and, therefore, have no vote on matters affecting governance of our Association. LREDA is putting forward a request for bylaw amendment to give delegate status at General Assembly to all active members of LREDA who are also employed by a congregation.

LREDA is asking a minimum of 15 congregations to support discussion about this at the 2018 General Assembly so it may be added to the agenda. To be clear, at this stage, congregations are simply asked to support and sponsor discussion about this at the 2018 UUA General Assembly. I ask that the Board discuss naming the First Unitarian Society of Westchester as one of the congregations sponsoring discussion about this bylaw change.

If you agree, the congregation will submit [this completed form](#) to [generalassembly@uua.org](mailto:generalassembly@uua.org) by February 1<sup>st</sup> with the text of the bylaw change [noted here](#).

### **Meetings, Training & Outreach**

#### Weekly and Monthly

- Weekly with the Minister
- Additional meeting with the Minister to discuss ideas about a 2<sup>nd</sup> hour RE
- Weekly meeting with Staff
- Monthly Religious Education Ministry
- Special meeting of the RE team to discuss ideas about a 2<sup>nd</sup> hour RE
- Monthly Board of Trustees
- Monthly Metro NY LREDA Chapter (Liberal Religious Educators Association)
- Monthly [PrideWorks Board](#)

#### Others

- Meeting with the CER staff member supporting youth and young adult ministry
- Consultation with Kimberly Sweeney about future of faith formation conversations at FUSW
- *Sequel to Sunday School Webinar Series*
- Bimonthly Meeting of Religious Educators Serving Multiple Congregations

### **Highlights from the Past Month at FUSW**

The RE Ministry Team has been in discussion about ways to better serve the needs of our families and held a special meeting to consider specific options. After a rich and thoughtful discussion about making changes in the short-term, the Team decided wait, preferring to focus on long-term changes informed by feedback from our families and conversation with the congregation about the future of faith formation at FUSW. The Team is currently drafting language about the need for changes to share with the congregation, and composing a short list of very specific questions for RE families to help inform a

renewed vision for RE. Our first step will be to elicit specific feedback from families. Irene and I will keep the Board updated as this work evolves.

Met with the youth group to begin planning their February 4<sup>th</sup> worship service.

Coordinated and attended the NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, [Ending the Silence](#) program at FUSW. It was not well attended, likely due to the mid-December date. This presentation is very important so we will schedule another opportunity for our youth and parents to hear this presentation at FUSW.

Participated in the Christmas Eve worship service.

Participating in the six-session *Sequel to Sunday School* webinar series which Kimberley Sweeney is offering for religious professionals so we have opportunities to share learning about how others are approaching adaptive challenges in congregations. The session tonight is about congregational conversations related to the future of faith formation.

### **Denominational Service**

I serve as a [Good Officer for LREDA Continental](#) and provided support for one colleague last month.