



## First Unitarian Society of Westchester Religious Education Ministry

### Guidelines for RE Helping Hands

Thank you for contributing to our Religious Education Ministry as a Helping Hand! No preparation is required to serve in this role. You simply attend class and share an hour with children and youth who are grateful for your interest in their spiritual development. Your presence also helps us meet UUA Safe Congregations recommendations by having at least two adults present in each classroom.

The main thing we ask of you as a Helping Hand is to bring your *UUness* to the class. The following points can help orient your participation during class:

- ✿ Assist the teacher as needed to set up before class and clean up after class.
- ✿ The teacher you are assisting is responsible for knowing the curriculum, guiding the children through that week's lesson plan, and supervising the classroom. Please be mindful of the teacher's authority in the classroom and the time she/he has spent preparing the morning's lesson.
- ✿ You might interject a short question or comment during discussion or activity to help augment the teacher's lesson and enrich the children and youth's learning by extending their thinking or providing an alternate perspective.
- ✿ Encourage the children and youth to participate actively and thoughtfully. If someone is having trouble maintaining focus, you might sit next to them to help monitor their restlessness. If necessary, the teacher will call the children back into covenant as a reminder of how we agreed to interact in RE (this includes listening to each other, not interrupting and speaking respectfully). If a child or youth continues to engage in disruptive behavior, ask the DRE or RE chair to intervene.
- ✿ If a child or youth leaves the classroom for the restroom or another reason, accompany them and return to the classroom as quickly as possible. If the child or youth will not return to the classroom, find the DRE or RE Greeter/Assistant for the day so they can manage the situation and you can return to the classroom.
- ✿ Most importantly, demonstrate an interest in the children's faith development and the classroom topic.

It is important that your presence enables us to be responsive to the Safe Congregations recommendations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, which suggests having two or more adults present in our classrooms at all times. Even if there are only a few children attending RE the morning you are participating as Helping Hands, it's important you are there.

Thank you so much for supporting the Religious Education Ministry in this way!

Please don't hesitate to contact Tracy Breneman with questions.

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