

## **South Church REC 2011 Goals**

**January 18, 2011**

The Religious Education Council has identified three goals for our 2011 fiscal year and has worked with the Director of Religious Education and our Finance Committee on a plan and a budget that will help us to reach them. These goals are as follows

**1) Better welcome and integrate new families into our programming.**

Often the RE staff or volunteers are the first people that a new, visiting or returning family may meet. For this reason we want to make certain that we are always visible and available to such parents and children throughout the many Sunday morning transitions.

**2) Push our Director of Religious Education more into our programming.**

Having a professional DRE is a fantastic asset to our community. And we want our children to know our DRE and for her to know each of them. Strengthening this relationship strengthens our programming and our greater church community.

**3) Continue to evolve and refine our curriculum, with a focus on youth group programming.**

By necessity last year we rolled Young Church onto the new UUA based curriculum with little analysis. It is critical that our DRE be allotted the time necessary to drill into this curriculum in order to tailor it appropriately to our programming. Further, it is critical that we allocate time and energy to ensuring our youth programming is hitting the mark, or risk spiking attrition in this most fragile student population.

**4) Better support our teaching volunteers.**

Ours is a cooperative program where the congregation members are our teachers and leaders. We need to increase our support for these volunteers through strong administrative and programming support.

To help us accomplish these goals, we have asked that the budget contemplate the following increases.

**A) 2.5 hours per week for a Sunday morning RE Program coordinator**

(Supports Goals 1, 2 and 4) - Allows the DRE to be in a classroom every Sunday. We are goal is to have someone here who understands all aspects of the days programming, who can greet families and help them to comfortably get their children into the classes, and support teachers when issues arise as they do each week. (Currently this is accomplished by a rotation of REC members.)

**B) DRE contract and salary be extended from 40 to 44 weeks.**

(Supports Goals 3 and 4) - This is in acknowledgement of the additional hours necessary for the DRE to both wrap up the spring and prepare for the fall for our current level of programming. It also allows for her to officially support the three summer Sunday morning programs we plan to provide.

**C) Additional 5 hours of RE assistant hours per week**

(Supports Goals 3 and 4) This will allow the DRE to delegation of more administrative work, freeing up more time for focus on programming and curriculum each week.

**D) Restoration of the RE Supply Budget to \$4000**

(Supports Goal 4) – We have run the cupboard a bit dry in the last to years of belt tightening and we would like to restock so our volunteers have what they need to offer the programming.