

COOPERATIVE RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION PROGRAM

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES 2016-2017

At First Parish in Brookline we believe in building community and caring for each other. One goal of faith formation is that children and youth know others in their community and be known by others. To that end we allow children and parents/guardians the opportunity to get to know others by having parents not work directly in their child's classroom.

In keeping with our Safe Congregations Policy, First Parish in Brookline will conduct a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) search for all volunteers who have ongoing direct contact with children and youth. Following best practices, volunteers are expected to sign a Code of Ethics Statement, and help us insure that there are always two adults present with our children and youth.

Opportunities to Work Directly with Children

RE Class Teacher: Teach twice a month, once as the Community “assistant” teacher and the next as the Content “lead” teacher.

Responsibilities: Arrive 15 minutes before service to set up the room and stay 15 minutes to clean up at the end. Content “lead” teachers plan the 60 minute lesson and related experiences. A curriculum is provided, and the DRE and RE Committee liaison provide support. The Community “assistant” teacher supports the Content teacher with the activities and focuses on the community building aspect of the session. Teacher sends a brief email to parents on the Friday before class letting them know what will be happening that week, Community teachers send an email to families following the session, sharing fun stories, photos and details from that day's activities. Time commitment expected is 6 hours of teaching team meetings throughout the year, plus three Teacher Enrichment opportunities during the year. Average time commitment is 5-6 hours per month.

Childcare Provider: Provide childcare during church activities, potlucks or meetings. (Occasionally fill in for absent classroom volunteers – see description of assistant above.)

Responsibilities: Arrive 15 minutes before childcare is required to set up the room; plan age appropriate activities; stay until all children have been picked up; clean up at the end of each session. DRE will support activity planning. Less than 3 hours per month.

Justice Seeking Sunday Coordinator: Work with Fellow Justice Seeking Sunday Coordinators, an RE Committee Liaison and DRE to plan activities for five Justice Seeking Sundays for a multi-age group of children.

Responsibilities: Recruit volunteers and communicate about activities, roles and expectations. Gather supplies and arrange for any special equipment or space. Arrive at church by 10:30 to set up; stay after the session for 30 minutes to oversee parents who volunteered to clean up. Average is 2 hours per month.

Opportunities to Work with First Parish Families

RE Greeters: Greeters arrive at church at 10:15 to set up the greeting area, wear the greeting sash and be in position at the top of the stairs by 10:30. Greet before and after church – responsibilities continue into social hour.

Responsibilities: Greeters welcome everyone arriving at the church, with special attention to new families. Help answer questions, have newcomers fill out visitor form, explain a typical morning at First Parish, find out what the visitor's interests are, and share information of events happening at church. Stay at top of stairs until 11:05, then proceed to worship. At 12:15 seek out visitors during social hour to make them feel welcome and introduce

them to the ministers, DRE and other congregants. Attend greeter training in the fall. Work two Sundays a month. Approximately 4 hours per month.

Teacher Enrichment and Teacher Appreciation: Work with the DRE to organize three teacher enrichment evenings, and organize and recruit volunteers for two teacher appreciation events.

Responsibilities: Include booking space at FPB, inviting teachers, organizing the food/potluck, gathering and preparing supplies, and arranging for (and overseeing) volunteers for set up and clean up. Average time commitment is 3 hours per month.

Class Coordinator for Neighboring Faiths program: Communicate with parents regarding upcoming events, arrange 4 class wide gatherings during the church year. Follow up with new families to help them settle in to church. Approximately 4 hours per month (may be more in September and less the rest of the year).

Opportunities to Support RE Which Can Be Done Independently

Set up/clean up: Set up and clean-up for meetings, gatherings and special events. You will receive training on where items are stored and how to use the kitchen equipment. Some tasks may involve food preparation. Approximately 4 hour per month.

Supplies Organizer: Organize, inventory and label the RE supply closet. Clean out supplies which have dried out or are no longer working. Work with the DRE to make sure we have necessary supplies for classes. Approximately 4 hour per month.

Bulletin Boards: Design and keep the REC bulletin board and the Church Events Bulletin Board current each month. Time commitment is 2 hours per month.

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