



The Unitarian Church in Westport

Position Open: Lead for Children's and Family Faith Formation

Reporting to the Senior Minister,
the [Rev. Dr. John Morehouse](#)

May, 2021

Overview: This is a new PT position that focuses on attracting and retaining a vibrant, growing community of young children and their families into our congregation. The goal is that these children will learn and grow in religious community, understanding the heritage and values of the Unitarian Universalist faith and living them with purpose, joy, fun, and enthusiasm.

Position Description: We are seeking an energetic, positive, thoughtful person to build out the congregation's Family Faith Formation program for young children (up to Grade 8) and their families. The aim is to continue growing a lively, energized community of families whose children are engaged in learning age-appropriate intercultural and religious competency, as espoused by the UUA and under the guidance of our Senior Minister and with collaboration with staff and volunteers.

This position is part of a team involved in lifelong faith development for the TUCW congregation. The position is hourly part-time at 20-24 hours per week and qualifies for medical insurance and other benefits as per our HR Policy. The position requires a commitment to working on Sundays mornings while the Congregation's worship services and Sunday activities are in session.¹

We are looking for someone who has experience working with families with young children and is looking to expand and grow in the role as the program expands and grows in Fairfield County. This is an excellent opportunity for someone who is ready for a "break-out" role: either because they've done some of this work before and are ready for a step-function expansion of role; or they have done similar kinds of activities in different venues or for different audiences, and want to apply it to a faith community setting – perhaps after years in a business or corporate setting.

Note that we do not require the incumbent to be a Unitarian Universalist themselves, but we do ask that they honor, value and teach our UU principles, which are broad and inclusive. (see <https://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe/principles>).

Minimal requirements: The person in this role should have:

- Bachelor's Degree required, and graduate degree preferred
- Strong communications skills for core constituents– esp. children, parents and staff

¹ The amount of time on Sunday is variable.

- Reliable organizational skills: scheduling, managing resources, planning
- A demonstrable passion for children and their learning and development
- Some experience in people management a plus: recruiting, hiring, developing others – volunteers or staff - to help the program succeed while staying within budget²
- Familiarity with modern technology and databases required

Scope of activities: The person in this role must be able to:

- Create an overarching plan to attract, educate, and retain children and young families in the lower Fairfield county area
- Leverage existing materials – from the UUA, from Soul Matters, or from other sources – to deliver age-appropriate learning and growth
- Build comfortable rapport with children and their parents
- Tap into the energy and creativity of church friends and members, so that Family Faith Formation becomes an exciting part of the congregational experience, much like our Music and Social Justice programs.
- Report out to the Ministers, staff, parents and the larger community on progress and developments.

Compensation: Compensation is commensurate with experience following professional guidelines from the UUA. This position will qualify for insurance and benefits after requisite requirements have been met.

About our Congregation. The Unitarian Church in Westport is a welcoming and diverse spiritual community committed to inspiration, connection and action, located at 10 Lyons Plains Road in Westport. Founded in 1949, we are a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association (www.uua.org). Our building is an award-winning landmark built by Victor Lundy that embraces our natural world with its open walls, and lifts our spirits with its swooping roofline. We draw from households across the lower Fairfield country area. For more information, please see our website: <https://uuwestport.org> and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

To Apply: Send resume and cover email to the Senior Minister revjohn@uuwestport.org. Please no phone calls.

² Historically children’s programming has often been staffed by volunteers: parents, church members, youth (HS) needing community service credits. It would be up to the Lead to decide how to handle this. We note that funding is always an issue for paying staff.