

HUMAN



MSU
Handbook
2010-11

MCY VISION & MISSION

Within UUMAN's MCY, we picture an intentional community with people of all ages, where we can change and grow by being together lovingly and thoughtfully.

Our mission is to be together in ways that affirm our UU Principles. The different programs & activities that we create in our shared ministry give us many choices for growing and exploring with each other.

Our goal is to build a ministry that focuses on connecting deeply with others. We will help each other learn and grow and celebrate each person's unique personality & gifts. We will take care of one another and our whole community.

We will always do our best to create a physically and emotionally safe church home where UU Principles can be both lived and demonstrated.

We welcome everyone in our congregation to share our ministry by worshipping, playing, serving, learning, & growing together.



Religious Exploration

The UUMAN Religious Exploration (RE) & Youth Programs (YRUU) are offered as part of our *Ministry with Children & Youth*. We are committed to the personal & spiritual development of our Children, Youth, Volunteers & their Families within the context of our Unitarian Universalist Faith.

Childcare & Preschool
Nursery, Toddlers &
Pre-K

Early Elementary
Grades K--3

Upper Elementary
Grades 4&5

Junior Youth
Grades 6-8

Senior Youth
Grades 9-12

We are guided by our understanding of the Faith Development of Young People. It is our intention to develop & offer experiences that support our Ministry through age appropriate Religious Exploration & Youth Programming at UUMAN

Nursery, Toddlers & Preschool

I am loved. I am seen. I am safe. Church is a family.

Early Elementary

Church is a place where we can ask questions about the world and about life. I can explore along with others to discover answers. Church is a family. I am loved.

Upper Elementary

Being UU matters. Principles guide us. Our Sources inform us. I can search for what is meaningful for me. I am part of something bigger than myself. I make a difference. I am loved.

Junior Youth (Middle School)

All forms of religious expression have value. I continue to search for what is meaningful for me. I am just right as I am. I can think about and articulate what I believe right now (*though it will continue to develop throughout my life*). Our Church Community will celebrate my Faith with me. I am loved.

Senior Youth (High School)

Being UU means being in authentic Community. How we live in the world and how we treat one another matters. I have a lot to give to our Community, our Faith and to the world. I am loved.

Explorer's Toolkit **2010-11 Curricula**

Nursery/Toddler

(Newborn – potty trained)
No formal curriculum
Sue Hagood (*Professional childcare provider*)
Team of 4-6 volunteers

Preschool & Pre-K (3+ – 5 yrs)

“We Are Many, We Are One”
4 Volunteer Team Leaders

Early Elementary (Grades K-1)

“A Discovering Year”
3 Volunteer Team Leaders

Early Elementary (Grades 2-3)

“Love Will Guide Us”
3 Volunteer Team Leaders

Upper Elementary (Grades 4-5)

“Windows & Mirrors”
3 Volunteer Team Leaders

Jr Youth (Grades 6-8)

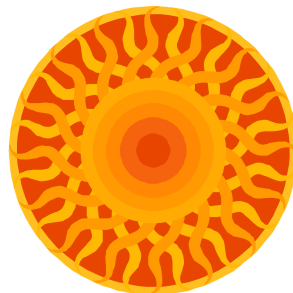
“Riddle & Mystery”
3 Jr Youth Advisors

Sr Youth (Grades 9-12)

“Small Group Ministry”
4 Sr Youth Advisors

6 Sources Inspire Us

- The sense of wonder we all share
- Women and men of long ago and today whose lives remind us to be courageously loving
- The ethical and spiritual wisdom of the world's religions
 - Jewish and Christian teachings which tell us to love all others as we love ourselves
 - The use of reason and the discoveries of science
 - The harmony of nature and the sacred circle of life





Our UU Principles

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
Every person is important and valuable

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
All people should be treated fairly and kindly

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth
in our congregations;
We encourage one another and learn together

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
Each person is free to search for what is true and right

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process
within our congregations and in society at large;
**Each person should have a say about the things
that matter to them**

The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
We work for a peaceful, fair and free world

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence
of which we are a part;
**We take care of the earth, the home we share
with all living things**



UUMAN's Ministry with Children & Youth

Behavioral Expectations

Based on the Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

UUMAN's Ministry with Children & Youth is grounded in a commitment to affirm our UU Principles as we build a safe & loving community where we can worship, learn, serve, play & grow together.

Principle One: Each and every person is important and valuable.

Everyone deserves to be treated with respect. We all have a right to speak, to have a chance to share, to be heard, and to be included in the day's activities at church. This means that we remember not to interrupt when someone else is talking and that we take turns so that every person has a chance to talk, to play or to do a special activity.

Principle Two: All people should be treated fairly and kindly.

Everyone – no matter their age, gender, race, family, abilities, or differences is welcome! We use kind, thoughtful, words. We welcome new friends & look after one another. We forgive ourselves & each other for our mistakes. We deal with our anger & disappointments in honest, caring ways. When we know we are wrong, we apologize and make amends for what we have done. We speak up and get help when we see someone being treated unfairly.

Principle Three: We encourage one another and learn together.

UUMAN is a place for fun & friendship, for learning & service! We listen to each other, participate in group activities to the best of our abilities, help someone who is new or struggling, and share what we are thinking or feeling. We remember that we learn by trying new things and understanding our mistakes. We encourage each other as we learn and grow.

Principle Four: Each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.

Everyone is encouraged to share their own thoughts & feelings without fear of being laughed at or criticized. We ask questions to discover what is true and right for ourselves. We let other people ask questions and explore the things that have meaning for them, and never make fun of our classmates. We try to make sure that people of all ages are given choices so that they can follow their interests & discover what is true & right for them.

Principle Five: Each person should have a say about the things that matter to them.

This principle reminds us that all of us, young and old, work together to make church a safe and friendly place to learn & grow together! Everyone contributes by sharing thoughts and feelings about what happens at church and offering ideas for new, or better, ways of doing things.

Principle Six: We work together for a peaceful, fair and free world.

We settle our disagreements in honest, caring & peaceful ways. We don't shout, push, shove or throw things at one another. We play with each other in thoughtful ways, leaving toy weapons at home. When there is a problem, we talk *to* each other, not *about* each other.

Principle Seven: We care of the Earth, our home, which we share with all living things.

We don't waste food or supplies, and we recycle whatever we can. We don't jump on furniture or play on equipment that is meant for people who are smaller, or younger, than we are. We leave supplies and clean rooms for the next person.

We take good care of what belongs to the church or other people.

Living with our agreements

Understanding our Principles & what is expected of us in our time together helps us to stay in 'Right Relationship' with one another. With our promise to do our best we will each make a difference as we build our shared ministry together.

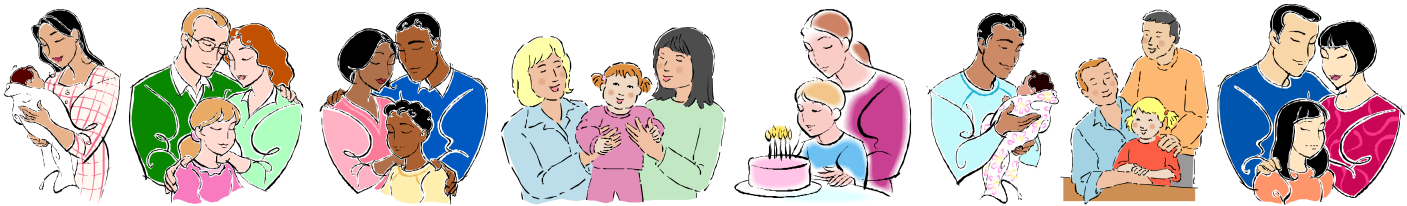
Living our UU Principles in our daily lives, at church and at home, can be hard work! All of us, young people and adults, will make mistakes at times. We will sometimes fail to live up to the expectations that we have for one another. At those times, it is important for us to talk honestly, with respect and love, to get the help from someone we trust, to listen to one another, to apologize and make amends & to explore what we can do differently next time.

In this way, we learn and grow. In this way, we keep our church a safe and special place. In this way, we make a difference in the world.

When we have difficulty meeting these expectations & affirming our Principles, here are the steps that we will take to get back on track...

- An RE Team member will offer a reminder that the behavior is not part of our agreement.
- If the behavior continues, an adult will have a *private* conversation with the young person to determine how the situation can be improved.
- If the young person is upset or unable to cooperate, s/he may be brought to the DMCY for additional resource, support &/or conversation to work toward a solution.
- If a satisfactory solution is not found, the DMCY will speak with the young person's parent(s) or guardian(s).
- The parent(s) or guardian(s), young person, RE Team members & DMCY will work together to find ways to make changes or accommodations that enable the young person to participate fully as a member of the RE Team.
- In the case of repeated difficulties, a parent or guardian may be asked to attend class with the young person until a resolution is found.





Parental Responsibilities

Safety and Supervision: On arrival on Sunday morning, Parents/Guardians are asked to assist young people in signing the attendance sheet at the MCY table in the foyer. Parents should then accompany young people to their team's room or the Sanctuary as appropriate. Younger children (infants through Pre-K) may be taken directly to their rooms where they can sign in. ***For their safety, Children & Youth are required to be under adult supervision at all times.*** If they are not attending RE sessions or other MCY activities they are expected to be under their parent's or guardian's supervision. Before and after scheduled RE sessions, parents are responsible for the direct supervision of their children while on the playground or elsewhere on the campus. ***Young People should never be in a building without adult supervision.***

Childcare: Childcare for all ages is available from 9.00am on Sunday mornings for those parents/guardians who wish to attend Adult Religious Education classes. Our professional caregiver will welcome children as parents sign them into the nursery. Parents must come to the nursery to sign their child out once their Adult RE has been dismissed. Childcare is provided in the *Nursery* for infants & toddlers who are not yet potty trained.

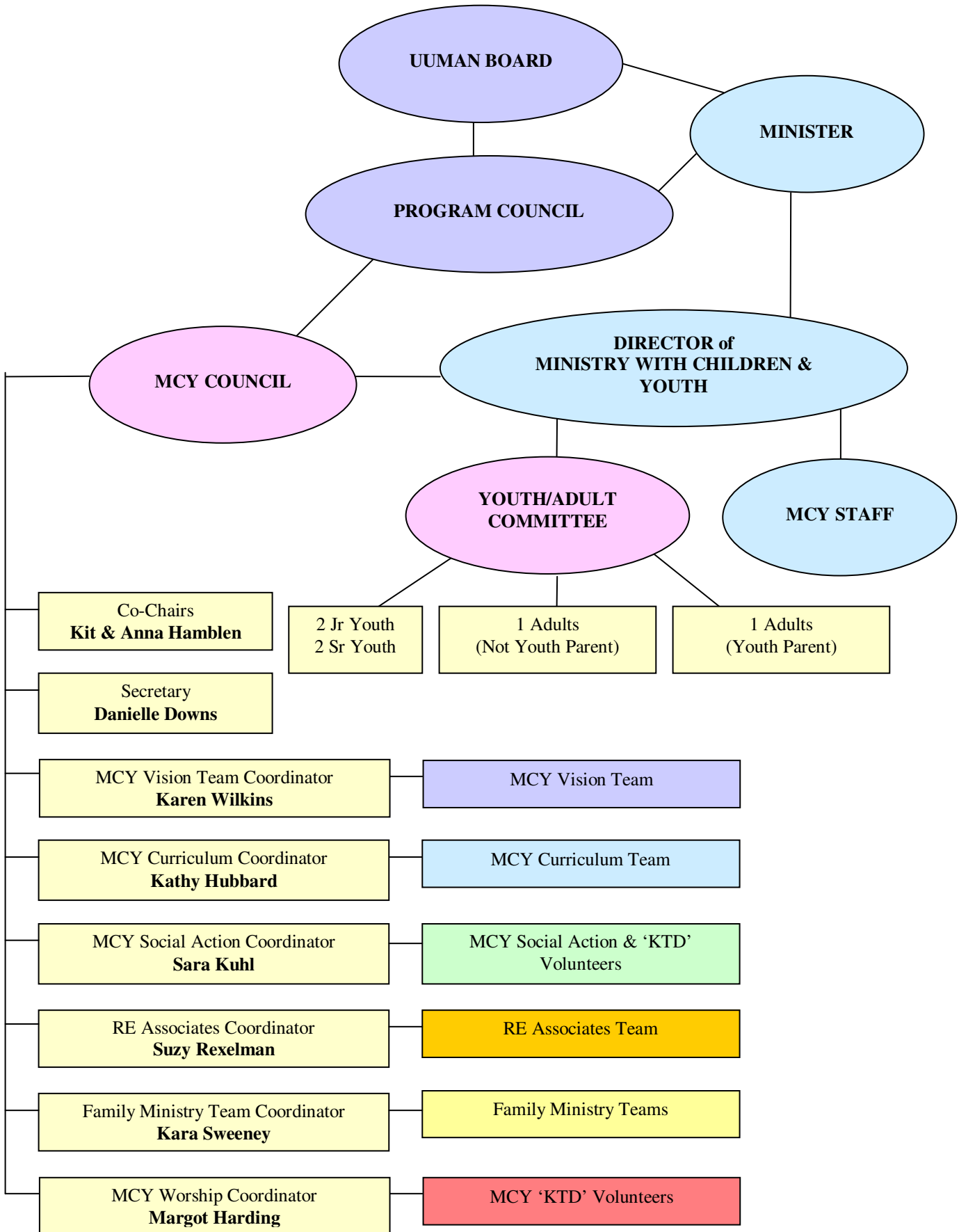
Religious Exploration (RE): Children in *Pre-K through grade 12* may participate in Religious Exploration activities on Sunday mornings. Teams meet in rooms in both Fellowship & Discovery Halls during the time when the adult community is in the Worship Service. Parents or guardians are expected to be available, if needed, during this time. ***Our younger children will not be dismissed without an adult.*** Children in Pre-K through grade 3 should be picked up by a parent or designated adult at 11.30am. ***We respectfully ask that parents wait until 11.30am to collect their young ones as RE Teams need this time to complete their sessions.***

Involvement: Ours is a '*Shared Ministry with Children & Youth*'. Parents and other UUMAN members who have been attending UUMAN for six months or longer are warmly invited (*encouraged*) to apply to be a Religious Exploration Team Leader for a semester or summer session. Our program relies on dedicated volunteers who make a significant contribution to our ministry, our church, and the principles of Unitarian Universalism.

Attendance: ***A vital part of the spiritual development of our young people is the experience of being together in community.*** Children who attend regularly get the most from the curriculum and are able to build strong and lasting relationships by sharing their gifts (& *struggles*) with Teammates and the larger Church community. Children & Youth want & need to make meaningful friendships; they look forward to seeing each other on Sunday & may be disappointed if their friends are absent. We hope to support each family in making regular church attendance a priority.

Financial Commitment: We believe that the religious education & faith development of our children is the responsibility of the entire congregation. In addition to a voluntary donation for MCY enrollment, ***we encourage families to provide strong financial support to UUMAN through their annual pledge.*** Only with such support are we able to provide professional staff, training, clean and attractive meeting spaces, meaningful curricula, & general program supplies.

MCY Structure





MCY Staff & Council Contacts

MCY Staff

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MCY Council

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