

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in this position. There are six of us in the Director of Religious Education Search Committee and we'd like to tell you about who we are and why we are so excited to have you find out more about us.

Our committee was formed this fall for the purpose of launching a national search for the DRE position. We are in the midst of a "media blast" to get out the news of the vacancy and position description. With all this talk of 'launching' and 'blasting' you might think we are a high-powered group of people and well, I guess we are. We meet at a local UU hang-out that has friendly service and wonderful bean burritos. Joining hands before our meeting, we begin our work together and juggle binders of information with lunches. The Reverend Arthur Vaeni is our spiritual guide full of compassion and humility and New Yorker cartoons. Milt Harper and Melanie Ransom are our brilliant and focused co-chairs and parents with children in the RE program. Melanie says her reason for joining and leading this group is, "Getting the right person in this position is key to bringing and retaining families in our congregation. I wanted to be in the thick of it." Milt is looking forward to "Knowing the amazing people I'll meet and get to work with." Jana McKinley similarly enthusiastic shares, "I found my place in the UU faith through the YRUU program, and feel a strong commitment to helping find a new DRE that will help other children and youth find a safe, welcoming, and spiritually/politically thought provoking place in their lives." Erin Finch is our youthful member who tells us why forums we can do in 'real time' are better than email trails. Who knew? Heather Rader, also a parent, is our writer-in-residence who is looking forward to the interviews. We look forward to hearing your story and what brings you here to us on your journey.

Speaking of stories, we are a congregation filled with stories to share and stories we want to live out next. If you're a Unitarian Universalist now, you'll probably recognize us, although you might know us by different names from congregations you've served in the past. We're nutty about reducing, reusing and recycling. We hug trees any chance we get, which is often since our church is in the woods. We don't mind getting dirty, and are often found pulling weeds and planting native plants at our spiritual home. We've traveled all over the world and don't mind fixing dishes from our wanderings and serving them up as auction items to the highest bidders. We don't pay attention to the latest fashions, but prefer to wear things we deem as comfortable. We want everyone that joins us to feel as comfortable with us as we do with our jeans and double-tall lattes.

Here are some of the attributes that summarize what we are looking for in a new DRE: bright, enthusiastic, aware, magnetic and open. But as Art reminds us, we are also looking for someone human. Someone who lives the UU principles and knows how to share this work with others. Our church is rich in spirit. Our children are beautiful in spirit. Our wish is to grow in spirit. Which is why we invite you to "Come grow with us."

Yours in a mutual search,

Erin Finch
Heather Rader

Milt Harper
Melanie Ransom

Jana McKinley
Rev. Art Vaeni