



# MAGNET

## Alexander's Meander

Well, it's that time of year folks... the time of year when strange spirits roam about playing tricks on people. How do I know this? Well, not because of the change of colors or the smell of dead leaves or the darkening skies, which usually portend this season, but by the fact that some trickster visited my bathroom to play a trick on me! Yes, my bathroom! It seems some strange spirit saw fit to squeeze toothpaste out of its tube and into the center of the toilet paper roll. This I happened to discover moments before leaving my house, all decked out in a three piece and on my way to a wedding.

Placing my fingers inside the roll to dispense the paper (our toilet paper rolls prefer to hang out off the roller and on top of the toilet's tank – though that's probably more information than you feel you need about your minister!), my fingers became immersed in several ounces of toothpaste! Before realizing what had happened, my suit pants were smeared with toothpaste!

Pray tell, did some demon play this foul trick on me? Some witch? Some troll? Some dispossessed spirit? Or perhaps a 7 year old, 4' 2" lad that is sometimes seen wandering our home? I strongly suspect the latter!

My initial response to the lad's jest was surprise and then anger at having had my pants ruined in this manner. But after a few seconds of assessing the situation, I realized something very important. The strange spirits that play tricks on us this time of year (and all year long, actually), play a very important role in our lives. No matter the moment, we need to be reminded of one of the many, many deep truths about life – life likes to remind us to

have fun with it, too, especially when we seem least in the mood!

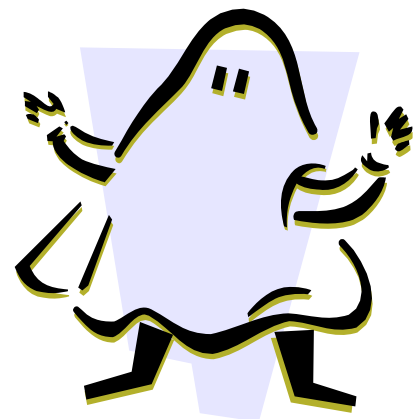
So I quickly reframed my experience and my reaction to one of joviality and blessing. I was forced to pause for a moment and be reminded of life's playfulness, and I was infinitely glad that I had a little boy in my life to remind me that what I do in life is almost never as somber and sacred as I think!

As the season proceeds, let us remember to view the trickster spirits that roam our world this time of year, and every time of year, as blessings that call us to remember the sacredness of a life that sometimes sticks its foot out to trip us, then winks at us in the most devilish way!

Trick or Treat? – Both, actually! Life is both a trick and a treat, and maybe a treat only because of its tricks!

Boo!

Alex





## From the Director of Religious Education

You know it's gonna be quite a day when Raggedy Ann is the Chalice Keeper! Listening to Terie and Shannon sing about community on Stewardship Sunday was a great way to start the day, I heard them from the hallway, and was drawn into the Meeting House! Downstairs, 2 year old Eric was busy making sure that the new baby in the nursery was happy. But I have to admit I had the most fun in the "youngsters" room during their gathering circle. Marc & Bill did an amazing job leading the kids in a round of- "If your happy and you know it- ROAR like a lion, If your happy and you know it- JUMP like a frog!", there wasn't a shy one in the group! Upstairs, Steve came into the elementary room to share the patents he received, and then the kids got to take apart old electronics. Which they enjoyed nearly as much as creating their own inventions the last couple weeks. Next door, as the middle school group painted pumpkins, they sang "This Little Light of Mine I'm Gonna Let it Shine!" The high school group's enjoying getting to know one another better, they've created a classroom covenant, I was pleased to see they were listening to Reverend Alex's story last Sunday, part of their covenant is to give warm fuzzies not cold pricklies!

After Church, children in the Journeymen group shared contemplative thoughts about times they'd experienced prejudice, and ways they'd lived out the second principle by being kind to someone. As we closed this afternoon I reminded the Journeyer group about taking a minute to just relax, sit comfortably, breath deeply and "let it all go-everything" (as Dane said.) I decided to take my own advice (and Dane's), before leaving church today I went and sat in the Meeting House and listened to the Dulcimer group practice, as Renzo stomped his foot in rhythm, my heartbeat followed ...

Now this is community!

A busy month... My first Animal Blessing began the month of October, and it was quite an event. I was so proud of the responsible youth that presented a reading about all the wonderful living things we're surrounded by. The readers were Ian K., Claudia, Dayna, Dane, Ian L., Kaley, even mom, Deb stepped in! Unfortunately, Ian L. left not feeling to positive about all living creatures- a bee stung him on the chin during the service. I hear he's made a full recovery! Another recovery was the Church's cat! The Church family had a difficult night that Sunday for their cat had run off into the woods, those who knew stayed and tried to help find it. Dayna and Darryl gave it quite a bit of effort. I was so pleased to get the phone call Monday morning that they had found him! Where? On the roof of the church! Yes, he truly is a Church Cat!

Last week I learned about another experience with the Great Outdoors... when 2 year old, Mathias came in, his mom handed me a ziploc bag, inside a matted tuft of his hair. As it turns out, he had gotten stuck on a branch, while walking through the woods the week before. The seeds were trying to make it out and thought they'd catch a ride on Mathias. It reminded me of earlier in the month, in fact at the Animal Blessing, that time, the seeds hitchhiked out of the woods on Ellen and Charlie's mom's sweat-shirt, these seeds ended up in the garbage can, who knows they may lead to beautiful plants growing up from a garbage dump somewhere...

In Peaceful Song and Stories,

Jennifer A. Teed

### **Celebrate National Family Week- Nov. 19-25, 2006**

Here's one idea...

Have you ever made pudding by shaking your whole body? Well I did with the "youngsters" class... Here's what ya do... each person mix 2 T. pudding mix, with a 1/4 cup milk in a small container with a lid, then jump up and down and shake it all about!



# Words from George – November 2006

It's November, Thanksgiving time, and a time for me to reflect on all that I'm thankful for. Many of the things I'm thankful for relate to UUCF. My first thought is many friends, old and new, who take a sincere interest in how I'm doing. There are also the Sunday morning services and thought provoking discussions I have at church, which help me to better understand how I fit in the world and help me to determine what I want to do with my life. I'm thankful for the diversity of thought at UUCF and the people willing to openly discuss their views. It's inspirational to see on a weekly basis many of our members devoting significant amounts of their time and energy to make our church successful; people who have very busy lives giving service to UUCF a high priority. Thank you all!!

Another thing to be thankful for; our new boiler is coming! Joe Burchill, our Building and Grounds committee chairperson, has been learning more about boilers over the past weeks than he ever expected to. We have sorted out the right size and type of replacement boiler and ordered it on October 13<sup>th</sup>. It should be operational by mid November.

Finally, I want to let you know our annual December Congregational meeting will be held at 6:00pm on Sunday 3 December. One of the items on our agenda will be a vote on a number of proposed changes to our UUCF Bylaws. These proposed changes are shown elsewhere in this Magnet. A number of you have attended the informational meetings we have had over the past month and are aware of these proposed changes. Passage of a Bylaw change requires a larger quorum than we typically need for other types of decisions. Please make a special attempt to attend this congregational meeting.



## Energetic Creative Adults Needed!

The Religious Education Program is looking for more adults to spend time with our youth.

There are many opportunities for you!

**Would you be interested in helping to plan, lead or help with a Craft or Game Day?**

We currently have a dedicated group of volunteer teachers. We would like them to be able to take a break from teaching on the following holidays: Nov. 26, Dec. 24, Dec. 31.

We also need dedicated and caring adults to serve as chaperones for field trips and overnights.



We are beginning to look for teachers for January, summer and even next fall.

If you'd like to know more about teaching, let's talk...

**If you would be available and interested in helping, or if you have other talents to bring to the program - please contact Jennifer at [dre@uufarmington.org](mailto:dre@uufarmington.org)**

## Daytimers

The Daytimers, the seniors group at the church, had their monthly meeting at the church at 12:00 noon on Thursday, October 19.

Bud Baggett brought in an article about several restaurants run by the culinary arts students of the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College. Each Thursday their Reflections Restaurant from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. has a fine-dining experience run by upperclassmen just about to graduate. For \$12.95 you get a four-course meal. A sign-up sheet was sent around, but not enough people signed up for going there in November, so we will plan on going another month.

21 people attended our meeting which is a record. Besides 17 regular Daytimers, we had four visitors who came to discuss new by-laws that are being recommended for our church. The visitors were Art Morrill, George and Linda Rourk and the Rourks' three-year-old nephew Kyle. Art, George and Linda owned up that they are over 50 and so qualify to attend our meetings at any time. We hope they will join us at other Daytimers meetings in the future which are open to all UUCF members and friends age 50 and up. We meet the third Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon. Make a bag lunch and join us.

Thank you, Priscilla Fleming, for bringing the dessert, two pumpkin pies. Next month Mary Hurd has volunteered to bring the dessert. We will meet at the church at 12:00 noon on Thursday, November 16.

**NOTICE:** We will be having a congregational meeting at UUCF at 6:00pm on Sunday December 3rd. Among the items on the agenda will be a vote on proposed Bylaw changes. A Bylaw change requires a large quorum. Please make a special effort to attend this meeting.

(Please look for the proposed bylaw changes elsewhere in the Magnet)

## Lifelong Learning Forum Update



The LLF Kick –off Concert with Matt Wotroba and Rev. Robert Jones was a huge success with 130 people in attendance. The meeting House rocked that night.

Our Thursday Night programming is in full swing also and will run through November 16<sup>th</sup>. We are very proud of the eclectic group of classes offered. So please tell your family and friends and come out to support this program. If you need a second brochure they are available in Adams Hall. If you are planning on attending the Great Decisions discussion group then pick up your reading material on the LLF table in Adams Hall also.

Reminder that Nietzsche's Nook runs the second Sunday of the month.

Contact Jim Berry for more information.

Many of you approach me during coffee hour about ideas for future LLF classes. I welcome your idea but unfortunately my memory is not what it used to be so please email me your ideas.

Vanessa Baber

## Sabbatical Support Team Update

All of the operating committees of the church have been helping to plan for a program that will seamlessly keep all functions of the church community operating smoothly during Rev. Alex's sabbatical from February 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> of next year.

The Program Committee has some stimulating speakers lined up to fill the pulpit. We will start off in February with **La'Ron Williams**, an African American Storyteller who will address diversity in an entertaining and fun way. We will also be graced with the wisdom of **Rev. Harry T. Cook**, Episcopal Priest of St Andrews Church in Clawson; **Jane Schaberg**, author and Professor of Religious Studies and Women's Studies at University of Detroit Mercy; as well as a number of ministers from other UU Churches from the Heartland District. We will also have a visit from **Michael Krieger**, former UUCF Music Director for an all music service, and we will hear from some familiar (and not so familiar) members such as **Paul Bailey**, **Jim Berry**, **Cassi Hartley**, and **Maureen Linker**.

The Membership Committee has made plans to cover other ministerial functions during this time period. **Lisa Hayhow** will coordinate any pastoral care needs that members might require and **Vanessa Baber** will coordinate for memorial services. We are planning to have several UU ministers from nearby congregations available "on call" to assist us during that time. Although there are several members already involved with the pastoral care group they are always looking for more volunteers. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Lisa or Vanessa.

Social Events is planning a "going away" party for Rev. Alex in January. You can expect to hear more about this in the very near future.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or one of the other members of the Sabbatical Support Team: **Susan Breen**, **Ann Ford**, **Maureen Linker**, **Joan Olds**, or **George Rourk**.

Harry Munson  
*Chair, Sabbatical Support Team*

### Gold Plate Dinner

Kick off the holiday season with what may very well be the best meal you have all year  
 (and help raise some extra funds for the church)!

Several UUCF chefs will be pulling out all the stops to bring you  
 a multi-course feast that will set the standard for the rest of your holiday parties. The particulars:

**WHEN: Saturday, December 2, 7:00 pm**

**WHERE: Adam's Hall**

**COST: \$50 per person**



Bring your favorite wine or other beverage of choice (coffee and tea will be offered),  
 put on your favorite party clothes, and prepare to party.

Tickets are available from **Linda Brown**, **George** or **Linda Rourk**, **Paul Denawetz**, **Sue Breen**,  
 or **Julie Adis** (or call **Linda B.** to reserve your place at the table).

## A Note From the Treasurer.

Did you know that it is entirely possible that your bank will automatically write and mail a pledge check to the church each month on a no-charge basis?

For some time now my bank, Chase (ex BankOne) has been sending a check to cover my pledge commitment each month at no charge to me.

I have inquired if this is possible since I am on line with the bank but they have assured me that being on line is not a requirement.

I am relieved of the responsibility of remembering to write the check and worrying about getting it there if I can't make it to church.

Please think about talking to your bank about this service. The advantages are many both to you and to the congregation.

Doug Callow



Do you like to sing?



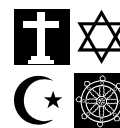
Join the choir!  
See Diana for details!

**The Social Events committee is seeking ideas and volunteers for skits, ideas, music or other types of light-hearted entertainment to be presented January 20 for Alex's gathering, prior to his February sabbatical. Each should be no longer than 5 minutes. Send your ideas with the names of those that will be presenting to the Social Events Committee by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Please place all entries in the Social Events mailbox in the office and include your contact information with your entry.**

**Mary Smith  
Social Events**



## Many Paths Program



November Field Trips:

Wednesday, November 8 - The Bhagavad Gita, one of the primary sacred texts of Hinduism, will be discussed in an informal lesson format at the Hindu Temple of Canton. The lesson will be from 8-9:00 PM. We will gather as a group to attend at 7:30 PM sharp at the church parking lot.

Saturday, November 11 - A yoga class addressing the philosophy as well as the physical aspects of the discipline. You will want to wear loose comfortable clothes. The class is from 8 - 9 AM. We will gather as a group to attend at 7:30 AM sharp at the church parking lot. Sign up at the Social Events Board in Adams Hall or contact Mary Smith for either one of the above classes.

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### Holiday Dessert and Gift Auction:



Do you have a dynamite holiday dessert that everyone raves over? Do you have the handcrafted or newly purchased item that would make the perfect gift for someone else to give? Please bring them to church on **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**, for our annual fundraising Holiday Dessert (and now Gift) auction. Show off your baking, crafting, or shopping prowess, and help raise money for UUCF.

The auction will be between services, so you'll need to come to church by about 10:15 that morning to drop off your goodies. Don't have anything to auction, not a problem- just bring your checkbook and take something great home with you. Questions? Call Linda Brown.

#### *Meet our New Members:*

#### **Melissa Falb and Joel Devonshire**

Melissa and Joel who were recently married, live in Ann Arbor and work at the University of Michigan. Melissa, who has earned degrees in psychology and theology, works at the Cancer Center in clinical research. Joel, whose background is in psychology, works at the Transportation Research Institute. They are active in social justice groups in Ann Arbor which include sustainability and Latin American issues. Melissa enjoys yoga, while they both are interested in meditation and Buddhism.

## THE MYSTERY BOOK CLUB



The November selection for the Mystery Book Club is *The Dante Club* by Mathew Pearl. The title refers to an actual group of 19th-century Bostonians who gathered to translate Dante's *Inferno* for an American audience.

Among the members of this exclusive "club" were poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, physician Oliver Wendell Holmes, and poet James Russell Lowell, all Unitarians.

While poring over the poem, the men find themselves on the trail of a serial killer who tortures his victims in ways that seem to be taken straight out of the pages of *Inferno*. This book is well written and should be especially interesting for UU readers.

We will meet for dinner at 5:30 at Panera Bread (12 Mile and Halsted) and return to the church at 7:00 for the book discussion. If you can't join us for dinner, come for the book discussion. If you have any questions, contact Helen Head.

### New Years Eve Brunch

## HELP WANTED

Sound Engineer for 11:30am service.

#### Job Description:

Arrive 20 minutes before the service to check equipment Make adjustments to the microphones during the service Place batteries in the battery charger at the end of the service Commit to working 2 times each month (less if you can recruit others) No experience necessary.

Please contact Barb or Chuck Eglinton

Your Social Events Committee is again planning a New Years Brunch to start late morning and go through the early afternoon on December 31, 2006.

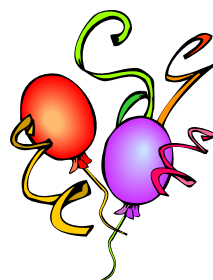
Put it on your calendar to join in the festivities with us as we enjoy egg casseroles, sweet muffins, Bloody Marys and Mimosas.

Watch for further information as we fine tune the details. You can sign up in December on the Social Events bulletin board to attend this gala affair.

Your Social Events Committee



## *Happy Membership Anniversary!!*

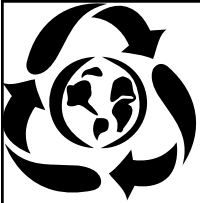


	Yrs of Membership	Date Joined
Kay Gallagher	35 yrs	11-7-1971
Dorothy Baggett	33 yrs	11-28-1973
Beverly Manheimer	24 yrs	11-21-1982
Helen Head	23 yrs	11-13-1983
Susan Lightner	23 yrs	11-13-1983
Joan & Jack Olds	20 yrs	11-23-1986
Libby Berger & Harry Munson	16 yrs	11-11-1990
William Diehl	15 yrs	11-10-1991
Tom Livingston	13 yrs	11-14-1993
Priscilla Fleming	11 yrs	11-12-1995
Dave Durham	9 yrs	11-9-1997
Becky & Dan Faber	9 yrs	11-9-1997
Linda Daniels	8 yrs	11-8-1998
Julie & Thomas Adis	7 yrs	11-7-1999
Corey Uhrig	7 yrs	11-7-1999
Irene & Hank Holst	6 yrs	11-19-2000
Karen Larson	6 yrs	11-19-2000
Ed Ambrose & Cathy Fiorco	5 yrs	11-11-2001
Dana Ramsay	4 yrs	11-17-2002
Denise Lester & Diane Nolan	4 yrs	11-17-2002
Connie Porter & Kelly White	3 yrs	11-23-2003
Scott & Jill Schneiderhan	2 yrs	11-14-2004
David Power	2 yrs	11-21-2004
Patricia & Bill Keck	2 yrs	11-21-2004



The **Welcoming Congregation Committee** will meet on Wednesday, November 16 at 6:30 pm. This committee focuses on making our GLBT members, friends and visitors welcome and on informing the entire congregation of GLBT oriented events at church or in the larger community that they might find of interest. All UUCFers are invited to participate in committee meetings. For more information contact

Millie Foss  
or Terie Spencer.



## From the Green Sanctuary Committee **Southfield Recycling Center**

The Southfield Recycling center is a good place to take your recyclables. First of all, it's open 24 hours a day. Secondly, it's on the way downtown (if you take 8 Mile to the Lodge freeway). You can drop things off going downtown or coming back. It's located on the north side of 8 Mile, just east of Evergreen.

You can recycle just about everything there. There are containers for glass—clear, brown or green. There is a bin for plastic bottles and containers (numbers 1 or 2) and tins and aluminum cans, all in the same bin.

There is a bin for newspapers, for magazines and for office papers, shredded or plain. Further back are small containers for Styrofoam, all types. There are very large bins for cardboard. No matter how large the cardboard is you can take it there.

In the front there is a Planet Aid container that accepts undamaged clothes, textiles and shoes (no high heels or boots). Please tie together and place in a plastic bag.

Here are some facts on the value of recycling:

1. One glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours.
2. One tin can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours.

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## IN OTHER NEWS



Did you know that UUCF has been participating in the Meijer Community Rewards program since it began three years ago? Or that church members who are already enrolled in the program have been earning money for UUCF just by shopping at Meijer?

It's easy to join the program.

You can apply in store, on-line at [www.meijer.com/rewards](http://www.meijer.com/rewards) or by mailing in a completed application. Your card will arrive in about 2-3 weeks.

There's also a family and friends linking feature . Please consider participating in this easy way to help UUCF. With the holidays approaching it's a great time to enroll and an easy way for us to earn extra \$\$ for our church. Just be sure to use our code # 833393

Thanks,  
Fundraising Committee

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25301 HALSTED,  
FARMINGTON HILLS 48335  
(248) 478-7272

Rev. Alexander Riegel, *Minister*

Jennifer Teed, *Director of Religious Education*

Diana Munch, *Music Director*

Cheryl Krug, *Office Administrator*

Jennifer Lill, *Magnet Editor*

**Magnet E-Mail:** [magnet@uufarmington.org](mailto:magnet@uufarmington.org)

Priscilla Fleming, Joan Larson, Barb Windsor -  
*Magnet Distribution*

E-Mail – [info@uufarmington.org](mailto:info@uufarmington.org)

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**Church Office Hours:**

Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Next Magnet Deadline:**

November 26, 2006

**Proposed Changes to the  
By-Laws of the  
Universalist Unitarian Church  
of Farmington, Michigan**

**ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS**

**Section 3. QUORUM**

- A. For the following items of business, one third of the membership shall constitute a quorum, and two thirds majority of those present shall be required to carry the question:
- 1) Call or dismiss a Minister.
  - 2) Sell or purchase real property.
  - 3) Elect a member to Lifetime Membership.
  - 4) Amend the By-Laws of this society.
  - 5) Recall an elected official.

**ARTICLE V - ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

**Section 1. EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- A. The Executive Board shall act for the Church between Annual Meetings and at such times shall have the power of the Church itself; however it shall not authorize the conveyance or mortgage of Church property or engage or dismiss a Minister without vote of the Congregation at a duly called meeting.

**DELETE:**

**Section 5. COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

The Committee on Ministry shall be comprised of four regular members. Each year the minister will submit at least three names from which the Executive Board will select one member to serve a two year term. Each year the Executive Board will submit at least three names from which the minister will select one member to serve a two year term. This committee shall act as a liaison between the minister and the congregation. This committee will support the minister in carrying on an effective ministry by being available for counsel.

**INSERT:**

**Section 5. COMMITTEE ON ASSESSMENT OF CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH (COACH)**

- A. Function. The function of this committee is to understand, assess, support, and advocate for robust ministry throughout the context of congregational life. It seeks to examine how the members take care of themselves and each other, and how the lay ministerial leadership and the professional staff serve the Congregation. In addition, this committee shall support the professional staff in carrying on effective ministries by being available for counsel for both the Minister and the Director of Religious Education.

- B. Organization. The committee shall be comprised of six (6) members, selected by the Executive Board, the Minister and the Director of Religious Education to serve three-year terms on a staggered basis.

**ADD:**

Section 6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- A. Function. This committee shall ensure the creation of performance expectations and completion of annual performance reviews of all paid employees. This committee also shall recommend to the Executive Board compensation and benefits packages for all employees.
- B. Organization. This committee shall consist of the Vice President of Administration (who shall serve as the chairperson), and the chairperson of the Committee on Assessment of Congregational Health, and three (3) at-large members selected by the Executive Board in consultation with the Nominating committee to serve three-year terms on a staggered basis, so that one member is selected each year.

**DELETE:**

Section 7. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- D. MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE. The Nominating Committee shall also present a slate for the Memorial Garden Committee, to be elected by the Executive Board annually in May.

**INSERT:**

Section 8. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- D. OTHER COMMITTEES. The Nominating Committee shall present nominees to the Executive Board for the Personnel Committee and Memorial Garden Committee to be selected annually in May.

**RENUMBER current Sections 6 & 7 to be 7 & 8.**

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**DELETE:**

ARTICLE VII - THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Section 1. SELECTION AND EMPLOYMENT

- A. The Religious Education Committee shall recommend to the membership a qualified person as Director of Religious Education.
- B. The Religious Education Committee shall recommend to the Executive Board the salary to be offered and other provisions of the suggested contract. The Executive Board shall determine and approve the final salary package, including benefits, and the contract language.

- C. The Director of Religious Education shall be called upon recommendation of the Religious Education Committee and a quorum of the membership as established in Article IV.

#### Section 2. FUNCTION

The Director of Religious Education shall be in charge of the religious education programs, administering the policy and curriculum as established by the Executive Board through the Religious Education Committee.

#### Section 3. RESIGNATION AND DISMISSAL

- A. Three (3) months written notice shall be given by the Director of Religious Education or the Congregation to terminate employment unless a shorter or longer period shall be mutually agreed upon and specified in the Director of Religious Education's contract.
- B. The Director of Religious Education may be dismissed by a majority of the membership as established in Article IV.

### **INSERT:**

## ARTICLE VII - THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

#### Section 1. FUNCTION

The Director of Religious Education shall be in charge of the religious education programs, administering the policy and curriculum as established by the Executive Board through the Religious Education Committee.

#### Section 2. SELECTION

- A. When the position of Director of Religious Education is vacant, the Executive Board shall establish a search committee to identify potential replacement candidates.
- B. This search committee shall be comprised of one member from the Personnel Committee, one member from the Committee for the Health of the Congregation, at least one member from the Religious Education Committee, and other regular members as deemed necessary.
- C. This committee shall recommend a qualified candidate to the Executive Board for the position of Director of Religious Education.

#### Section 3. TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

- A. Terms of employment, compensation and benefits for the Director of Religious Education shall be determined by the Executive Board in consultation with the Religious Education Committee and the Personnel Committee.
- B. Three (3) months written notice shall be given by either the Director of Religious Education or the Executive Board to terminate employment unless a shorter or longer period shall be mutually agreed upon.