

## **Mission Statement of the Youth-Adult Committee**

*Adopted MAY 10, 2005*

The Youth-Adult Committee (YAC) of the First Congregational Unitarian Church of Harvard brings together middle school and senior high youth, advisors, the Director of Religious Education, and other church members to facilitate communication between the youth and adults of the Church. Its mission is to uphold Unitarian Universalist values by presenting our youth with opportunities for worship, social action, leadership, youth-adult relations, learning, and community building.

In order to accomplish this mission we:

- 1) Act as liaison between youth, youth advisors, and the Board. This includes advocating on behalf of youth to the Board and at All-Leadership Meetings;
- 2) Facilitate communication with the congregation at large and with other district youth programs. Gather information by listening to needs expressed by the congregation and learning of opportunities available in the District;
- 3) Support and evaluate youth programs by:
  - Enlisting parent and other volunteer help necessary for the efficient operation of all youth programs;
  - Providing ideas and input for current and new programming;
  - Conducting evaluations of the programs, including advisors, by gathering the opinions of the youth, parents, and other stakeholders;
  - Participating in decisions regarding budget, curricula, youth leadership development, safety, physical space, and equipment;
- 4) Create appropriate policy, in a collaborative way, regarding youth leadership, youth conduct and oversight of youth programs;
- 5) Support the Director of Religious Education in the recruitment of youth advisors, and teacher-mentors for the youth programs.

## **Structure and Process of the Youth-Adult Committee**

The YAC has three adult members, each holding two-year renewable terms, and four youth members each holding one-year renewable terms. Adult members will be recruited by the co-chairs (the initial group was recruited by the DRE). Youth members (two from MSYG and two from SHYG) will be chosen by their peers. One adult and one youth serve as co-chairs and one member will be responsible for minutes. The DRE acts *as an ex officio* member.

YAC meets once monthly. In order to meet briefly with the youth group advisors, it alternates meeting days based on the MSYG and SHYG meetings (meeting with MSYG advisors one month and SHYG advisors the next month).

The YAC may hold one retreat each year and may have additional meetings with the youth advisors when needed.