



## Religious Education Report – Reverend Athena Kolbe

*Purpose of this report is to summarize the activities of the year along with some basic assessments to assist with planning for the forthcoming year.*

Name of Committee, Task Force or Group: Children & Youth Programming Committee/Bridges  
Youth Program

6) What is working well in your committee or group

*In terms of our committee, we have a lot of enthusiasm and good ideas for ways to work with children and youth; our group works well together with little conflict and with improved communication.*

*In terms of programming, we now have a significant core group of consistent, involved and committed youth. In fact, some older youth have mentioned that this is the first time in years of attending our church that they have been part of a youth group with significant numbers of regular participants and with weekly activities. This is a huge accomplishment!*

*Two other accomplishments include the instituting of the Bridges curriculum, which is changing the ways in which young people are involved in church and learning about their faith. The second major accomplishment is the development of the summer Adventure Camp. This program is a chance for junior and senior high school students to deepen their faith and their relationships with each other while learning about Unitarian Universalism. We will be offering the camp program for a second time this year.*

7) What would you like to change?

We need to change the structure of our group to reflect the changes that have been made and are being made in how programming is conceptualized and delivered to children, youth and families.

We anticipate that additional changes will occur soon, as Rev. Smith joins our staff in her new capacity which include recruiting and equipping volunteers for ministry. With Rev. Smith's assistance in finding adult volunteers for the program, more of Rev. Kolbe's time will be freed up to establish adult religious education programming.

8) How are communications working? Could you improve?

We have been able to improve the ways that communicate within our group and with youth participants through using the internet, the church yahoo list, and Facebook. We would like to improve the frequency and depth with which we communicate our activities to the larger congregational body.

9) What changes do you suggest?

We suggest changing the format and structure of our committee to reflect our current needs and situation.

10) What are your goals for the near future?



- i. Continue to increase youth enrollment.*
- ii. To create a committed, enthusiastic core of adult volunteers who are excited about mentoring youth and having fun while supervising aspects of the Bridges program.*
- iii. Re-develop and re-envision the Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> Grade program to prepare youth for Bridges.*
- iv. For Rev. Kolbe to develop adult programming in the 2008-2009 church year.*