

A Living Curriculum

The vision of, *A Living Curriculum*, is to empower children and youth to use their spiritual wisdom to fulfill their soul's purpose; to empower parents to see themselves as the primary spiritual educators of their children and youth; to empower facilitators to see education as a process, through which they effectively support the unfolding of the child's spiritual nature and model the living of the spiritual principles; to empower a spiritual community to function with unity in diversity; to inspire a world educational community by its philosophy, process, programs and products.
(Association of Unity Churches, Int'l)

A Living Curriculum Philosophy 5-Point Check List

- 1. Identify:** Each lesson begins with an issue or theme that will be explored.
- 2. The Vehicle:** Either a Bible story, sacred literature, movie clip, life event or song are used to introduce the issue or theme. This creates a common experience that everyone can connect to.
- 3. The Discussion:** This is the heart of each lesson. The questions used invite the students to see how the issue is happening to the characters in the story, how it is happening in their lives and the world around them and helps them come to their own conclusions as to how to experience life from a deeper, more connected place.
- 4. The Creative Experience:** The creative experiences are open ended activities that invite the students to play in what they have heard and shared and to explore how it is relevant to their lives.
- 5. The Sharing:** Each lesson ends with an opportunity for the students to share what they have experienced. They are also encouraged to take the new discoveries home with them and use them in their daily lives.

Who We Are

As a spiritual youth community, we provide a safe place of love and acceptance where our children and teens experience the recognition of their oneness with God.

Our purpose is to create programs and experiences that invite the Divine potential in each individual to grow and expand. Using the tools of affirmative prayer, *Living Curriculum*, meditation and service, we practice Unity Truth principles as a way of life.

What We Believe

Unity's 5 Basic Principles

1. There is only one power and one presence in the universe, God, who is all good and active in everything, everywhere.
2. I am naturally good because God's divinity is in me and in everyone.
3. I create my experiences by what I choose to think and what I feel and believe.
4. Through affirmative prayer and meditation I connect with God and bring out the good in my life.
5. I do and give my best by living the Truth I know. I make a difference.

Unity Northwest Church



Youth & Family Ministry

A safe & sacred place to let your
Divine Light shine!

259 E. Central Road
Des Plaines, IL 60016

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www.unityprospers.com

Children's Ministry

To ensure the maximum safety for the children, a parent/guardian is required to sign the child into the classroom with the same person signing them out immediately following the service.

Nursery

Infants to 2 years old

Our nursery staff lovingly interacts with our youngest members affirming the Christ presence within them.

Preschool

Ages 3 to 5

Young children are noticing more about the world around them and their place in it. They are full of curiosity and questions and are developing the capacity to respond in a loving way to others and to take responsibility for their actions.

Curriculum Focus

Creating experiences that:

- Help the children know that they are loved just as they are.
- Explore Jesus as a human being and as a model of love and goodness.
- Help the children understand that they, too, have the spiritual potential to act in ways that bring out their best selves.

Elementary

Ages 6 to 10

These students are energetic, curious, open imaginative, and enthusiastic. They are learning what it means to be in relationship with each other. They still need adult help and reassurance but also need time on their own to explore new ideas and concepts. They are developing the ability to talk about and explain their ideas.

Curriculum Focus

Creating experiences that:

- Help the children see Jesus as a person who had challenges and difficulties but created a relationship with God that helped him to move through these challenges with loving kindness and generosity.
- Invite the children to explore how they, too, can let God live through them as an expression of life, love and kindness.

Spiritual Education Program

Spiritual Education classes are available for children 3 to 18 years old during the 11:00 am Service only.

Nursery care is provided for children under 3 years of age.



Sunday Lesson Format

Sacred Circle: A time of community building, prayer, reconnecting, prayer and meditation.

Story Sharing: An experience that is used to create common ground among the students.

Discussion: The use of a questioning strategy that engages the learner in an exploration of the story and how it reflects Unity principle and relates to their life.

Creative Experience: The students are then invited into creative experiences that allow them time to personally explore the ideas.

Sharing: A time of sharing ideas and talking about their experiences is offered at the end.

Closing: All classes join the adults in the Sunday service for closing celebrations.



***For the safety of the children...
We inquire into personal references
and perform a criminal
background check on all volunteers
who work with our youth.***

Teen Ministry

Uniteens

Middle School - Ages 11 to 13

Preteens are going through huge physical and emotional changes. They can be unpredictable and hard to read as they swing between childhood and adulthood. They are making an attempt to move into adulthood but can still be drawn to things in their childhood. Preteens are excited to be moving into the teen years but also scared of the unknown. They are exploring who they are and their peers are very important to them.

Curriculum Focus

Creating experiences that:

- Explore Jesus as a human being who lived and is also the example of God moving in and through us.
- Help them know they are inherently good and that they have choices as to how they can show up in this world.

Y.O.U.

High School - Ages 14 to 18

Teens are going through rapid changes and continued growth spurts. They face a lot of temptations and constant peer pressure. They spend a great deal of time worrying about how others view them. They are beginning to want to be treated as adults. They have the ability to think through problems on their own and want to be respected for who they are. Their emotions are often mixed, sometimes feeling like an adult and ready to assume more responsibility and sometimes feeling like they can't handle anything.

Curriculum Focus

Creating experiences that:

- Invite them to consider the idea that God is a mental attitude that works in and through us.
- Help them understand that they are the creator of their own world through the thoughts they give power to and what they choose to see and believe.
- Help them to know that each has the power to live and do as Jesus did.