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## Religious Education

We believe that faith is a journey we take together.

Religious education takes a lifetime. It happens both within and beyond a congregation's walls. We support one another as individuals, families, and communities in an ongoing search for truth and meaning. We strive to guide one another—all ages among us—in religious questioning, personal change, and discovering ways to better live in faith. -[www.uua.org/re](http://www.uua.org/re)

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## GWAREC Members:

### Responsibilities:

- ◆ First pay dues by July 1 annually to LREDA,.
- ◆ Once you are up-to-date on your LREDA dues, you may join JPD-LREDA
- ◆ There are no dues for GWAREC as we are part of JPD-LREDA and we share responsibilities. You are not required to be a member of LREDA or JPD-LREDA to be a member of GWAREC.

### A Few of the Benefits:

- ◆ GWAREC monthly meetings and collegial support as well as leadership opportunities in worship and programming
- ◆ GWAREC mentor
- ◆ JPD-LREDA Facebook page
- ◆ JPD-LREDA annual retreat



## GWAREC

Greater Washington Area  
Religious Educator  
Cluster  
2015-16





## What We Do

GWAREC supports members in the Metro-DC geographic area. At the annual spring retreat of the JPD-LREDA chapters, members discussed the need for relevancy in religious education programming and how mentors can ease the transition to RE leadership in our district. To this end: in 2015-16, the GWAREC leadership team will focus on:

- ◇ Learning how to bring relevant issues to RE
- ◇ Collaborating among our congregations
- ◇ Creating a GWAREC mentorship program

## Who We Are

GWAREC is the Greater Washington Area Religious Educators Council. Members:

- Are metro DC area religious educators
- Meet monthly at member congregations for worship, collegial sharing, and programs to support liberal religious educators.

### Executive team for 2015-16:

- ◇ **President: Sarah Gonzalez**, CRE, Director of Religious Education, Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring, [dre@uucss.org](mailto:dre@uucss.org)
- ◇ **Vice-President: Ann Richards**, Director of Lifespan Spiritual Growth, Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church [dls@mvuc.org](mailto:dls@mvuc.org)
- ◇ **Secretary: Linnea Nelson**, Director of Religious Exploration, UU Congregation of Fairfax, [Dre@uucf.org](mailto:Dre@uucf.org)

## Informal Mentors

If you are a new religious educator or new to GWAREC, please reach out to individual GWAREC members and ask them if they would like to be your mentor. Or, let some-one on the executive committee know you are seeking a mentor, and we will help to connect you. If you are willing to mentor a religious educator, please let someone on the executive committee know.

## Mentor Ideas

Focus on: collegiality, support and guidance by:

- Determining together how and how often you will communicate
- Personally Inviting your mentee to meetings and the spring retreat

## Our Meetings

Our meetings generally begin with an opportunity to connect with one another informally from 9:30-10 a.m. We follow with a worship service and check in by professional religious educators. Guests are invited when programming warrants a larger conversation or need for outside speakers. Programming and worship responsibilities are shared among members through a sign up genius. Email an executive team member for the link.



## How Does GWAREC Fit In?

