

## WELCOME

**It is important that you read the following information before attending your training.**

I am so pleased that you are going to participate in the Involve Training. The Training will include: methods for assessing what help churches need; hands-on training activities to become comfortable with the teaching strategies described in the book, *Welcoming Children with Special Needs: A Guidebook for Faith Communities*; guided meditations and sensitivity training for congregations to help them understand the emotional and spiritual needs of children with special challenges; activities for leading discussions about pastoral and congregational care; reflections about the consequences of labeling children which help churches understand ministry to children with special needs; teaching techniques; and activities for leading discussions about the different disabilities and what it means spiritually to minister to these children and their families.

**Please purchase the book, *Welcoming Children with special Needs, a Guidebook for Faith Communities*.** The price is \$18.00. If you can purchase the book ahead of the training you are attending that would be helpful. If not, there will be some books available to purchase at the training.

**What to bring with you to the training.** In this download file you will receive a copy of the handouts I will be using during the training. Please bring them with you. Also please download the *Implementation Manual* and *A Faith-Based Sexuality Education Guide for the Inclusion of Children and Youth with Special Needs* to bring with you. **(Please read the Introduction to the *Implementation Manual* prior to the workshop.)** Also bring a pad of paper or notebook and a pen or pencil.

I look forward to meeting you and working with you to create a UU ministry for children with special needs. Thank you for your willingness to be part of this groundbreaking ministry. Please email me if you have any questions, concerns or ideas to share. [sally@embracechildspirit.org](mailto:sally@embracechildspirit.org)

**Blessings, Sally Patton**

Handout #1

## **Purpose and Themes of the Involve Training**

**Purpose of the Involve Training:** to train a cadre of religious educators, ministers and lay leaders to assist, train and educate people in UU churches to create welcoming congregations for children with special challenges.

### **Themes**

When children are safe and loved everyone is safe and loved.

Before congregations can encompass a ministry to children with special needs, they must first be a place that weaves children into the overall fabric of the church community.

The labeling of children can become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

People with disabilities are us not them.

We live in a world that defines people by what is wrong with them. Can we create a church community that sees differences as gifts?

Can we create in our faith communities, moments of transcendence for every child?

Can we be charismatic adults in children's lives, particularly for those with difficult challenges?

## **Handout #2**

### **Training Areas**

The Involve Training will focus on six topic areas:

1. Purpose and Creating a Vision of Ministry for Children with Special Needs
2. Teaching Techniques
3. Ministering to Families
4. Working with Congregations
5. Disability Awareness and Information
6. Small Group Processing and Personal Reflection

## **Handout #3**

### **AH-Ha!!!!**

**(Idea borrowed from the OWL Facilitator Training workshop)**

**Directions:** Use these pages to record any ah-has's, insights, significant learnings, key pieces of information that you learn and want to take with you as you leave this workshop. This can be used to record your reflections and insights throughout the workshop and specifically at the end of each day. These insights will be used for the final workshop activity, "Small Group Processing and Personal Reflection." There is one page for each training topic area.

As you progress through the training the following questions may help to focus your thoughts.

What is it about your work with children that inspires you?

What speaks to your soul?

What is your vision for lifespan faith development and how does it include welcoming all children?

What is our vision as Unitarian Universalists?

Can we as UU's minister to those who are oppressed and marginalized?

**AH – HA!!!**

Purpose and Creating a Vision of Ministry for  
Children with Special Needs

**AH – HA!!!**  
**Teaching Techniques**

**AH – HA!!!**  
**Ministering to Families**

**AH – HA!!!**  
**Working with Congregations**

**AH – HA!!!**  
**Disability Awareness and Information**

**AH – HA!!!**

**Small Group Processing and Personal Reflection**

Handout #4

**Songs**

**HOW COULD ANYONE**

*How could anyone ever tell you  
You were anything less than beautiful  
How could anyone ever tell you  
You were less than whole  
How could anyone fail to notice  
That your loving is a miracle  
How deeply you=re connected to my soul.*

**(Words and music by Libby Roderick, song found on her If You See a Dream CD)**

**SEE ME BEAUTIFUL**

See me beautiful.  
Look for the best in me.  
It's what I really am and all I want to be.  
It may take some time,  
It may be hard to find,  
But see me beautiful.  
See me beautiful each and every day.  
Could you take a chance?  
Could you find away to see me shining through  
In every thing I do,  
And see me beautiful.

**(Words and music by Red Grammer, from the "Teaching Peace" CD)**

**NAMASTÉ (I HONOR THEE)**

**Chorus – repeat**

I honor thee.  
I honor thee.  
Namasté, I honor thee.

Deep within  
Peace resides.  
Faith abounds  
And love abides.  
The light shines bright  
To illumine  
Love without,  
Love within.

When you are where  
You need to be,  
Within that space  
I honor thee.  
Seen through eyes,  
An illusion;  
Seen through spirit,  
We are one.

**Chorus –repeat**

Namasté  
I honor thee.

**(Words and music by Cathy Bolton from the "Communion with God" CD)**

## **WE ARE**

For each child that's born,  
A morning star rises  
    And sings to the universe  
    Who we are

We are our grandmothers' prayers  
We are our grandfathers' dreamings  
We are the breath of the ancestors  
We are the spirit of God.

We are  
Mothers of courage  
Fathers of time  
Daughters of dust  
The sons of great visions  
Sisters of mercy  
Brothers of Love  
Lovers of life  
Builders of nations  
Seekers of truth  
Keepers of faith  
Makers of peace  
Wisdom of ages . . . . .

**(Words and music, Ysaye M. Barnwell copyright 1993 Barnwell Notes (BMI)  
From the song suite, "Lessons," Commissioned by Redwood cultural Work's New  
Spiritual Project, funded by Meet the composer.)**

## **EVERYTHING POSSIBLE**

We have cleared off the table, the leftovers saved  
Washed the dishes and put them away  
I have told you a story and tucked you in tight  
At the end of your knockabout day  
As the moon sets its sails to carry you to sleep  
Over the midnight sea  
I will sing you a song no one sang to me  
May it keep you good company.

*Chorus:*

You can be anybody you want to be  
You can love whomever you will  
You can travel any country where your heart leads  
And know I will love you still  
You can live by yourself, you can gather friends around  
You can choose one special one

And the only measure of your words and your deeds  
Will be the love you leave behind when you're done.

There are girls who grow up strong and bold  
There are boys quiet and kind  
Some race on ahead, some follow behind  
Some go in their own way and time

Some women love women, some men love men  
Some raise children, some never do  
You can dream all the day never reaching the end  
Of everything possible for you.

Don't be rattled by names, by taunts, by games  
But seek out spirits true  
If you give your friends the best part of yourself  
They will give the same back to you.

*Chorus*

**(Words and music by Fred Small, *No Limit CD.*)**

## **Handout #5**

### **UU Principles**

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

## Handout #6

### Reframing

Instead of thinking of the ADD child as.....

Think of him or her as.....

*hyperactive*

*energetic*

*impulsive*

*spontaneous*

*distractible*

*creative*

*a daydreamer*

*imaginative*

*inattentive*

*global thinker with a wide focus*

*unpredictable*

*flexible*

*argumentative*

*independent*

*stubborn*

*committed*

*irritable*

*sensitive*

*aggressive*

*assertive*

*attention deficit disorder*

*unique*

Dr. Thomas Armstrong, *The Myth of the ADD Child, 50 Ways to Improve Your Child's Behavior and Attention Span without Drugs, Labels or Coercion*

## **Handout #7**

### **Small Group Processing and Personal Reflection**

(Adapted from the Small Group Processing Model, UUA Credentialing)

#### **Questions to consider**

Based on your own understanding and experience with what did you agree from the Involve Training? With what did you disagree?

What questions remain or were raised from participating in the Involve Training?

What information, understanding, or perspectives would you add?

Was the Involve Training presented using an anti-oppression/anti-racism/diversity lens? If so How? If not, what considerations and questions should be raised in order to open such a lens on this subject?

How has this experience touched your personal journey?

What are the implications of this learning for you as a religious professional?

**Handout #8**

**Evaluation: Involve Training**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Site: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What was your overall evaluation of the Involve training experience?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Excellent
- \_\_\_\_\_ Good
- \_\_\_\_\_ Average
- \_\_\_\_\_ Poor
- \_\_\_\_\_ Very Poor

2. What was the most helpful about the training?

3. What was the least helpful about the training?

4. What would make this training better? (Give as many ideas as you have.)

5. How ready do you feel about helping your church or other churches create an inclusive ministry for children with special needs? (Please circle)

1  
Not at all ready

2

3

4

5

Completely ready

**6. Please comment on Sally's skills in the following areas:**

**Presentation and style**

**Group process**

**Activity leadership**

**Knowledge of subject matter**

**7. What was your major hope/expectation/goal in attending this training? To what extent was it realized?**

**8. Additional comments**

**Thank you for your feedback!  
Please complete at the end of the workshop.**