## Beyond the Partisan Divide

## Religious Education Resourcesfor Children and Youth

Partisan difference divides us. This division plays out differently in our society than do racial, gender, sexual orientation, or any other types of division that manifest as oppressions, where one group has privilege and thus power over the other. Still, when partisan difference manifests in an environment heavily slanted to one party, all the ugly tendencies of oppressive environments can emerge—bigotry, prejudice, and exclusion, to name a few.

Unitarian Universalist environments slant heavily to the left. Individuals who hold some or all partisan affiliation with the right often experience our congregations, and our Association, as an unwelcoming and oppressive environment. Not only are their ideas in the minority, they are often chastised (directly or indirectly) for holding them.

The UUA’s Tapestry of Faith religious education curricula offer a number of session that teach the work of justice and mercy—the work of creating environments where all will feel accepted and loved, not in spite of, but because of who they are, in their entirety. These sessions can be adapted to particularly address partisan division—how it splits us, body and soul, one from another. The religious educator needs only to demonstrate and encourage the use of that lens while leading the exercises.

**For middle school and high school ages**

[Heeding the Call: Qualities of a Justice Maker](http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/call)

Heeding the Call is a social justice curriculum that not only explores linked oppressions in our society, but also encourages participants towards personal growth in values that counteract the marginalization of others. Workshops on empathy, courage, abundance, joy, and other qualities ask participants to recognize how these standards can be tools for justice. Additionally, the program includes more concrete tools, such as suggestions on how to be a good ally and tips on the language of conflict resolution. True stories of courage, sacrifice, and collaboration; role-plays; games; and a program-long justice project will feed youth’s rising realization that as people of faith we are all called to love justice—not just with our words, but also with our deeds.

* Faith in Action activity: Allies

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/call/workshop5/172089.shtml>

* Non-Violent Communication

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/call/workshop3/171761.shtml>

* Active Listening

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/call/workshop8/172975.shtml>

[A Chorus of Faiths: UUs as Interfaith Leaders](http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/chorus)

Part of a joint venture of the UUA and the Interfaith Youth Core (founded by Eboo Patel) and funded by the UU Congregation of Shelter Rock (NY), these sessions develop UU youth as interfaith leaders.

[A Place of Wholeness](http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/wholeness/workshop9/introduction), Workshop 9: Tolerance. Although celebrating pluralism is central to our faith, it is one of the hardest values to live out in the world. This workshop explores this challenge through one difference among us: that of race.

**For children (Grade 4 and up)**

Toolbox of Faith

[Session 7: Democratic Process](http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/toolbox/session7/109623.shtml)

Windows and Mirrors

[Session 3: We Need Not Think Alike to Love Alike](http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/windows/session3)

Love Connects Us

[Session 4: Love Your Neighbor As Yourself](http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveconnects/session4)

[Session 9: Kindness is the Key](http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveconnects/session9)

[Session 13: A Matter of Perspective](http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveconnects/session13)

Sing to the Power

[Session 8: The Power of Listening](http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/sing/session8)

Amazing Grace

 [Session 10: Right and Wrong Together](http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/grace/session10)