

Steps for Congregational Response

1. Respond appropriately. Whenever the concern of religious bullying is voiced, make sure that you treat the situation as real and important. If one child is being bullied, it's likely that others are, too. Include your minister and Director of Religious Education/Faith Formation.
2. Cultivate a congregational response
 - a. Create a panel of youth or life-long UU's for parents of children experiencing religious bullying
 - b. Create a panel for children whose lives have been touched by religious bullying – these may be the same as the first panel
3. Create resources for children experiencing bullying
 - a. First engage older youth/young adults in creating your workshop by facilitating their own conversation
 - What was the youth's experience?
 - What response from their parents was helpful?
 - What hurt?
 - What would have helped?
 - b. Set up a time for younger children and parents to meet as a group with the youth to have these same discussions
 - c. Create a mentor system - for kids in elementary and middle school by youth, young adults, and life-long UU's -- Let them know they are supported.
4. Give parents resources (refer to 'Resources for Parents' - feel free to expand on them)
 - a. Consider offering UU parenting classes to encourage parents in their role as primary religious educators