The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura seeks a Director of Religious Education for a growing, vibrant engaged congregation on the central California coast. Provide vision and leadership for children and youth in a program of 30-40 with potential for growing the program and the position. Seeking a good administrator with experience working with children, an understanding of children’s faith development, and a desire to minister to families at a time when there are many pressures upon them. Experience in working in a UU setting and/or familiarity with multi-religious perspectives very helpful. Will work closely and collaboratively with the senior minister and staff, active lay leaders, and engaged families.

Ventura is a coastal town with charm. Its vibrant Main Street, sparkling beaches and close proximity to LA, Ojai, Santa Barbara and Malibu make it a unique destination. We have a mild year-round Mediterranean climate with over 300 days of sunshine, low humidity and average low 70 degree temperatures. It is truly California’s Gold Coast.

Position open Mar. 1 until filled.
Generous salary commensurate with experience, and benefits and professional benefits.

SUMMARY
The role of the Director of Children's Religious Education (DRE) is to provide vision and leadership to the Children's Religious Education Program of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, consistent with the principles of Unitarian Universalism, the overall mission and vision of the congregation and the congregation's formal policies and procedures. The DRE strives to create a welcoming, safe, stimulating and rich educational program for children from birth to age 18 and their families in order to foster spiritual and religious growth. S/he models the values we are seeking to develop and to nurture. The DRE is supervised by the Senior Minister, working in close collaboration with both the Senior Minister and the Children's Religious Education Committee (REC).

RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Recruit, train and support volunteers from church members (often with assistance from others)
- Communication with families and congregation
- Materials and space preparation
- Record-keeping
- Attend staff meetings as work as a team with other staff members and minister
- Curriculum selection, planning, and adaptation
- Program policy development and implementation
- General administrative tasks, including budget development and monitoring
- Childcare coordination
- Worship involvement (regular time for all ages, multigenerational worship, and/or children’s chapel, possibly occasional preaching)
- Community-building activities for all ages
- Separate programming for youth (OWL, Teen Youth Group, Coming of Age) – direct oversight and/or delegation/supervision
- Occasional facilitation of parent and/or adult education courses
- Act as primary staff person to support for families
- Take advantage of opportunities for own professional development and service to the wider UU RE community
- Train volunteers and paid staff on California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law
- This position could expand to include a role in “Comprehensive Lifespan Faith Formation Ministry”

QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS
An ideal candidate will have the following:
- Bachelor’s degree, preferably in Education, Liberal Arts or Social Sciences
- 3 – 5 years of experience working with school-aged children in an educational or spiritual setting
- Familiarity with Unitarian Universalism, our liberal religious theology values and programs
- Proficient in MS Office software
- Familiarity with maintaining content using web-based software

BENEFITS
- Employee is responsible for providing his/her own health insurance. Compensation is calculated with this in mind.
- 3 weeks paid vacation annually.
- 2 weeks study leave
- DRE will accrue sabbatical leave at a rate of .75 month per year of service, with leave to be taken after 4 and before 7 years of service. No more than 4 months of sabbatical leave may be used within any 12-month period. The dates of sabbatical must be approved by the Senior Minister at least one year in advance. The congregation will continue full salary and benefits during sabbatical leave.
- The employee will receive a 10% retirement benefit paid by UUCV after 12 months of service.
- Annual professional expense to be determined (see separate guidelines for covered items)

MISCELLANEOUS
This position is a mandatory reporter as required by the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law

SUPERVISION
The DRE hires, trains and supervises paid care-giver staff of three.