

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a series of sexuality education curricula used in many Unitarian Universalist churches. The six Greater Cincinnati area UU churches join together every two years to offer the Our Whole Lives program to our seventh, eighth and ninth grade youth. (Some area UU churches also offer Our Whole Lives for other age ranges. For information on OWL programs for other age ranges, please contact the person in charge of children's religious education at the specific church.)

Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, Our Whole Lives provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

Many people work together to provide the Greater Cincinnati Our Whole Lives program. Coordinators from each church work together to plan and administer the 7th-9th grade program. Volunteers who are trained and certified OWL facilitators lead the sessions with the youth.

Our Whole Lives classes take place at the various churches according to a rotating schedule. Approximately 25 topic areas are covered during the course of eight gatherings, some of the gatherings being "overnights."

Registration for the Our Whole Lives program occurs in the autumn of even-numbered years (2020, 2022, etc.). Parents must attend a mandatory Parent Orientation which is usually offered in October. Parents pay a program fee for each child. The OWL organizers do not want the cost to prohibit any student from participating, so please contact your local Director of Religious Education or church leadership if you are concerned about the fee. Parents are also asked to provide help with food, supervision and support.

For more information on local OWL programs, please contact the coordinator of children's religious education at one of our area UU churches:

Heritage - (513) 231-8634

First Unitarian - (513) 281-1564

St. John's – (513) 961-1938

The Gathering/Northern Hills – (513) 931-6651

Harmony (513) 204-9488

Hopedale - (513) 523-4500

For more information on the Our Whole Lives program in general, visit the Unitarian Universalist Association web site pages for this program at

<http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/ourwhole/>