



Services of Celebration

for a

Newly Credentialed Religious Educator

LREDA

Liberal Religious Educators Association

u n i t a r i a n u n i v e r s a l i s t

Strong RE Programs

Begin with Strong Leaders

Congratulations to your Congregation and to your religious educator!

This guide was created to help you plan a worship service or worship elements to celebrate the completion of the Religious Education Credentialing process. This is a milestone for the religious professional and an accomplishment for the congregation that has supported the newly credentialed religious educator throughout this process.

This guide is designed for you to select what is most appropriate for your congregation. You may choose to devote an entire worship service to the accomplishment of your religious educator or to use the occasion as the theme for the Story for All Ages.

LREDA requests that you include a collection to benefit the RE Credentialing Scholarship Fund. This will enable more religious educators from more congregations to participate in the trainings required for the program.

Readings and Hymns are from *Singing the Living Tradition* (SLT)

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This material may be used by any Unitarian Universalist congregation.

Created for the Liberal Religious Educators Association
by Sara Cloe, Credentialed Religious Educator.

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Worship Service Outline for Honoring a Newly Credentialed Religious Educator

Use the standard order of service in your congregation to arrange the various components. Plan the order of service with your minister and/or worship leader.

Opening words: SLT # 429 *Come into this place of peace*

Chalice Lighting: SLT # 525 *Web*

Call children and youth forward if that is customary. DRE greets children and youth.

Minister, Worship Leader or DRE: Have you ever been on a vacation or a trip that took you to a new place? Raise your hand if you have. You may have seen sights that you heard about or saw in pictures, but hadn't seen for yourself. You may have tasted foods that were unusual. Perhaps the air smelled different, with pleasant or unpleasant aromas and odors! Our Director of Religious Education has been on a journey. She has traveled to Boston to meet with the Religious Education Credentialing Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We are happy to welcome her back as a Credentialed DRE!

This journey was just the last leg in a quest that she has been on for a while. She has been reading, writing, studying, and going to conferences and weekend trainings called Renaissance Modules. She has spent a lot of time thinking about what it means to be a religious educator. We are so proud of her accomplishments and grateful that she has chosen to devote so much of her time and energy to our congregation.

Minister or President: We have a gift to honor her and show her how we feel.

Presentation of gift – such as a stole, chalice and/or bouquet.

We will take a special collection to contribute to the Liberal Religious Educators Association credentialing scholarship fund, so that other religious educators may be able to afford the cost of educational needs to become credentialed.

Let's sing a song together to celebrate our shared ministry of religious education.

SLT # 402 *From You I Receive*

Children and youth are dismissed.

Minister, Worship Leader or DRE: It takes more than staff to provide all the services we enjoy in our beloved faith community. It is appropriate that, in addition to recognizing the accomplishment of our newly credentialed DRE, we also recognize the lay ministry of our Board of Trustees. They have served us by providing wise governance and stewardship of our resources. Would the Board of Trustees please come forward?

Please rise in body or spirit and turn to SLT Reading # 649 *From Generation to Generation*.

We are thankful for the generations who have gone before and those who will come after for their faithful ministry and stewardship. Members of the Board, please be seated.

Director of Religious Education: Presents homily

Minister or Worship Leader: Responsive Reading

Worship Leader in Bold type Congregation in Italics

We know that you have freely chosen to do all the reading, writing, and reflection necessary to become a credentialed religious educator

We appreciate your dedication to your calling and to our congregation

We understand that achieving this goal has not been easy and you have made sacrifices to earn this title

We acknowledge your gifts of time and energy

We understand that you have grown and developed new skills and insights

We feel blessed to have your knowledge and wisdom available to us

We will work with you to provide the high quality and excellence you have striven for in becoming credentialed

We thank you for guiding our religious education program

Hymn: SLT #311 *Let It Be a Dance*

Closing words: SLT #683 *Be Ours a Religion*

Responsive Reading **for Liturgy Honoring a Newly Credentialed Religious Educator**

Worship Leader in Bold type, Congregation in Italics

We know that you have freely chosen to do all the reading, writing, and reflection necessary to become a credentialed religious educator

We appreciate your dedication to your calling and to our congregation

We understand that achieving this goal has not been easy and you have made sacrifices to earn this title

We acknowledge your gifts of time and energy

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Homily for Newly Credentialed Religious Educator – Your Story

Each person's journey to and through the process of becoming a credentialed religious educator is very personal and unique. It is important for the newly credentialed religious educator to share their story with the congregation, rather than reading a 'canned' homily. I offer some suggestions for this, but it is up to each DRE to craft a short speech that speaks to their personal experience.

Using your portfolio as a starting point, you might talk about the competencies that you feel most passionate about and expand on the structured learning, reflections and work samples used to illustrate your proficiency in that area.

If you used narrative for a portion of your portfolio or reflection paper (e.g. Tenure track) adapt it for your homily. You may wish to tell the story of a pivotal moment when you discerned that religious education is your calling. Perhaps there was a particular person who encouraged, guided or mentored you in your formation that helped you achieve your goal.

Personal history and telling about the faith tradition you grew up maybe a basis for a good homily. If you were a cradle UU you could talk about your church home as a child. If you grew up in another faith tradition, what caused you to seek out Unitarian Universalism in adulthood?

Describing your experience of the interview with the RECC may be a platform for your homily. Retell the story or other worship component you used for the interview. Telling about the project you shared with the RECC might be inspiring. You could also share the question you gave the RECC as the first interview question and why you chose it.

Liturgy Honoring a Newly Credentialed Religious Educator (Short version)

Call children and youth forward if that is customary. DRE greets children and youth.

Minister, Worship Leader or DRE: Have you ever been on a vacation or a trip that took you to a new place? Raise your hand if you have. You may have seen sights that you heard about or saw in pictures, but hadn't seen for yourself. You may have tasted foods that were unusual. Perhaps the air smelled different with pleasant or unpleasant aromas and odors! Our Director of Religious Education has been on a journey. She has traveled to Boston to meet with the Religious Education Credentialing Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We are happy to welcome her back as a Credentialed DRE!

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Minister or President: We have a gift to honor her and show her how we feel.

Presentation of gift – such as a stole, chalice and/or bouquet.

We will take a special collection to contribute to the Liberal Religious Educators Association credentialing scholarship fund, so that other religious educators may be able to afford the cost of educational needs to become credentialed.

Let's sing a song together to celebrate our shared ministry of religious education.

402 *From You I Receive*

Children and youth are dismissed.

Liturgy Honoring a Newly Credentialed Religious Educator — Expanded to include honoring other leaders

Honor the Board of Trustees, Committee on Ministry, Religious Education Committee, etc., as is appropriate in your congregation.

Call children and youth forward if that is customary. DRE greets children and youth.

Minister, Worship Leader or DRE: Have you ever been on a vacation or a trip that took you to a new place? Raise your hand if you have. You may have seen sights that you heard about or saw in pictures, but hadn't seen for yourself. You may have tasted foods that were unusual. Perhaps the air smelled different with pleasant or unpleasant aromas and odors! Our Director of Religious Education has been on a journey. She has traveled to Boston to meet with the Religious Education Credentialing Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We are happy to welcome her back as a Credentialed DRE!

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Minister, Worship Leader or DRE: It takes more than staff to provide all the services we enjoy in our beloved faith community. It is appropriate that, in addition to recognizing the accomplishment of our newly credentialed DRE, we also recognize the lay ministry of our Board of Trustees, (plus, as appropriate, Committee on Ministry, Religious Education Committee, etc.) They have served us by providing wise governance and stewardship of our resources. Would the Board of Trustees, and please come forward?

Minister or Worship Leader:

Please rise in body or spirit and turn to *SLT Reading # 649 From Generation to Generation.*

Worship Leader in Bold type Congregation in Italics

We are thankful for the generations who have gone before and those who will come after for your faithful ministry and stewardship. Lay leaders, please be seated.

Suggested Readings for Liturgy Honoring a Newly Credentialed Religious Educator:

Opening Words

418 *Come Into the Circle*

420 *We are here to abet Creation*

430 *For now the winter is past*

Responsive Readings

646 *The Larger Circle*

649 *From Generation to Generation*

670 *The Way*

Closing Words

683 *Be Ours a Religion*

688 *Hold on to what is good*

All hymns, readings, opening and closing words, and chalice lightings come from the Unitarian Universalist hymnal, *Singing the Living Tradition* (SLT).



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The Liberal Religious Educators Association is an anti-racist, anti-oppression, welcoming, professional organization open to liberal religious educators and those supportive of religious education. LREDA promotes the religious growth and learning of people of all ages and advocates for and supports religious educators and the field of liberal religious education.

The center of our work as religious educators is belief in the transformative power of educating through our Unitarian Universalist faith.

lreda.org