

Partnership Flip-over Booklets

Children are naturally curious about their counterparts in their partner congregations and have questions about their daily lives. Partnership flip-over books are an attractive and easy way to help children in religious education share information about themselves and elicit information from the children in their partner congregation. They can be used to supplement or replace a formal pen-pal exchange.

A flip-over booklet tells a story about one congregation from one side to the middle, and tells a parallel story about the partner congregation when the booklet is flipped over and read from the other side. There is no side one or side two just as there is no partner one or two. Both sides of the book are equal but a bit different just as both partners are equal and unique. These booklets can help us explore our differences and commonalities.

To begin the creation of a booklet, have a group of children in RE brainstorm questions they have about their partners. Write their questions on a bulletin board so that they can be sorted by topics suitable for short booklets. Have the children choose a topic, and then ask them to answer their questions about their own lives. Record their answers and assemble them into a story. Take photographs and have them draw pictures to illustrate each page of their story. Send a draft of your half of the booklet to the RE instructors of your partner along with a list of the questions used, and have them collect and send you the information and pictures for their side of the booklet.

Sample topics include: how we worship; a day at school; animals in our lives; what we eat and how we prepare our food; our toys and games; in and around our homes; things we do to help our families, congregations and communities; our gardens; songs we like to sing. We want to share the everyday aspects of our lives with these booklets to learn more about ourselves and our partners.

Once the information has been collected, the booklets can be easily created using Microsoft Publisher or another desktop publishing program. These booklets are easier to lay out than a traditional front-to-back publication because they are read from the outside to the middle from each end. That means that each front page, second page, third page, etc. can be created side-by-side on a sheet of paper to be folded down the middle.

This sample flip-over book was created using “blank print publication” in Microsoft Publisher using the “landscape” view on 8 ½ x 11 paper. A vertical guideline was put in the center of page 1 (the blank starter page), and then text boxes were added to each side of the sheet, leaving space for a wide center margin, to lay out the area within which the side-by-side pages were made. Once these guides were set, the page was duplicated to make 8 pages with the guidelines and frames.

The UUSM story was put on the right half of all the odd-numbered pages and on the left half of all the even-numbered pages. The Ulay/Cabiguhan story was assembled on the opposite side of each page (the left half of the odd-numbered pages and the right half of all the even-numbered pages.) When all the text and pictures were in place, the pictures and text on the Ulay/Cabiguhan side of each page were grouped and rotated 180 degrees.

Eventually, with proper permissions for the use of pictures etc., these booklets could be gathered and shared with Unitarian Universalists around the world.