

## **RE Council Minutes**

### **March 20, 2016**

Present: Geri Knoebel, Mia Noren, Angela Herrera, Carol Cowan, Desiree Spielman, Nicia Rae, Stirling Crow, James Galasinski, Benita Terrell. Began 12:30

#### **Administrative Agenda:**

- Chalice Lighting and Opening Words by Mia
- Nicia to light Chalice in April
- Welcomed Stirling Crow to the Council
- Approved Feb Minutes
- Next meeting scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>; gather at 12:15 and officially begin at 12:30.
- Angela will miss the May meeting due to visiting a church in San Diego.

#### **Staff Reports:**

- Geri:
  - Suggested we post minutes on website for transparency. Council agreed.
  - Secretary to send out minutes within 5 days after meeting.
- Mia:
  - We have received \$3,000 from the Board to begin to improve playground. Cliff Youngberg, an RE parent, is currently considering becoming a Council member and assuming the Buildings and Grounds portfolio.
  - OWL classes have ended. Mia will be meeting with OWL teachers for their evaluation of how things went.
  - Job description was sent out to the Council for Youth Program Coordinator. Deadline for applications is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Seeking member to fill the position. Posted on FB, e-broadcast, and word of mouth. Will have 20 hour overlap with James.
  - Teacher lunches will be reduced from every month to 2 or 3 times a year to allow for having luncheons with other groups such as Youth Advisors., and OWL facilitators.
  - Coming of Age will be over at the end of April. Rather than wait until next school year to welcome them into La Amikoj, they will transition right away so that there is more continuity and reduce attrition (May 1<sup>st</sup>).
  - Considering changes to youth program. Would like them to meet regularly during the summer, but more youth advisors are needed. The current youth advisors are not expecting to advise over the summer. James will find out if any of the current advisors would like to continue over the summer.

#### **James:**

- Coming of Age was much improved and has good attendance.
- 8<sup>th</sup> graders aren't coming to Mid-High. They don't seem to bond with the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Considering programming to have a separate 8<sup>th</sup> grade class/ curriculum.

Angela:

- Susan Peck is bringing music into Children's Chapel.

Benita:

- Has posted a request on relevant RE pages in FB for parents, teachers and kids to contact her with their input about the RE program. It's the first step in planning a Program Evaluation.

Nicia:

- \$973 collected at last bake sale (\$368) and in the collection basket \$615. April 10<sup>th</sup> is next bake sale, NOT the 24<sup>th</sup>. Lisa and Jacob Johnson will do the Pulpit Editorial for the next bake sale. Focus is on recruitment, not fundraising. Anticipating less financial response b/c the focus is different. Use PayPal will available be for use on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Desiree:

- First 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. People are to brown bag. Snack sales at the picnics to support UU Kids Camp will start in May. Posted on FB.
- There is no set goal for dollars to be raised for camp scholarships. The more raised the more scholarships that be awarded.
- Said some people have expressed an interest in holding a BBQ. Mia says it is complicated because it requires so much supervision.

**Discussion Items:**

- Mia will send the Tree climbing policy to Stirling.
- Mia will inform Mark (Facilities person) that he needs to spray for black widows on the playground.
- Children should not play back in the garden area.
- How well are we implementing the first strategic priority, "Build up the staff and volunteer capacity of the RE program," as outlined in the Church's Strategic Plan?
  1. Develop and support the efforts of an energetic, visionary DRE with strong management and communication skills.
    - a. Mia is hoping to be pursuing credentialing from LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association, Unitarian Universalist – [www.lreda.org](http://www.lreda.org)) this year. It involves lots of classes, reading, writing, projects, etc. and can take up to 3 years to accomplish. The classes she has already taken count towards the credentialing.
  2. Rebuild the volunteer force by providing a range of meaningful volunteer opportunities and the tools to do a good job.
    - a. Are we getting the support we need to do our jobs?
  3. Improve communications with parents, teachers, youth, children, and RE staff.
- Look at the rotation list next meeting to determine at which times people will be rotating off the council.