

RE Council Minutes August 20, 2017

Attendees: Geri Knoebel, Mia Noren, Carol Cowan, Stirling Crow, Desiree Spielman, Colin Spooner, Nicia Rae, Callie Cone

Open words – Colin; next month - Stirling

Reports

Geri Knoebel, Chair Report

1. A big ‘thank you’ to Desiree, Alison, Alana and others who volunteered to make last Sunday’s Christine goodbye from RE such a success. There was lots of good company and good food. An oversized ‘Thank You’ card for Christine was presented to her which was signed by many who expressed their appreciation for her support and leadership of RE programs.
2. Mia and Geri worked on revising the *RE Council Resource Manual*. Areas in the Manual that have been revised and/or comments made:
 - RE Council membership terms: Originally it was understood that RE Council members had to take a hiatus after 2 years of service. This is not the case.
 - La Amikoj name: This is changing for our high school group. We would like to get away from the "La Amikoj" name because it's confusing for other churches. Mia would like the name to change to the "high school" group. It's easier to understand.
 - Buildings and Grounds liaison: We discussed redefining this position. Mia wants the south garden moved into the playground area. Nicia volunteered to assist and reach out to Jim TwoCrow in regard to involvement.
 - Community Team Lead: Adjusted this role to not include fundraising or volunteer appreciation.
 - UU Kids Camp: Changed the term "scholarships" to "assistance." Also we are looking to make the camp website more accessible by putting it on the regular church website.
 - 2017 – 2018 Calendar: The calendar will stay the way that it is so people can see when holidays are and when we are starting in the chapel or sanctuary.
3. Last Sunday’s combined teacher and youth advisor training went very well. Also for the first time, the calendar for 2017– 2018 (in the *Resource Manual*) includes both the children and youth schedules.
4. The emergency procedures in the *Teacher’s Training Manual* for fire and lockdown are being refined. A map showing the RE building and playground is being developed so that gathering places for emergency evacuations are clearly portrayed.

Playground Task Force

- 1) Last month, we began to discuss playground needs to meet ADA requirements and enhance current facilities. When Geri mentioned forming a Playground Task Force to Christine, her response was ‘Think BIG!’ Seek input, visioning, from, but not limited to:
 - a) Internal current users: RE parents, children and youth (on teacher’s holiday have kids draw dream playground), afterschool tutoring, ESL, others;
 - b) Potential users play space for teens, CUUPS, Meditation Group, our neighbors, others;

- c) Potential uses: outdoor worship space, gazebo, outdoor events, others;
- d) Some other ideas: Examine playgrounds in other Albuquerque churches and other large UU congregations.

The draft charge for the Playground Task Force was discussed by the Council. We will get feedback from Angela as well. The Task Force will be working into most of 2018.

Draft Charge for Playground Task Force:

The purpose of the Playground Task Force is to develop recommendations to upgrade the Church's playground areas for the purpose of serving the RE community and increasing social bonds. Input should be sought from current and potential users of the playground as well as identifying potential funding sources. The Task Force should coordinate its efforts with the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Task Force Members (tentative list):

- Geri Knoebel - Geri (Chair), Desiree Spielman, Mia Noren (ex-officio), Steve Phillips (need to ask, is on the Buildings and Grounds Committee), Doug Carp at Exerplay (willing to participate)

Mia Noren, RE DRE Report

1. Security to RE Office windows repaired and bars were installed on the window.
2. Teacher training set for first Sunday in August, with classes to begin the following Sunday. The youth advisers will start with the teachers, and then split off to cover items unique to their groups.
3. In a reversal of the usual situation, we have all the youth advisers we need, and are having trouble getting all of the teacher team members we need. At this time, we need 6 more. There are none for the 9:30 2nd & 3rd grade class.
4. The children will be starting in the Sanctuary twice this month. On the 13th for their regular time, and then also on the 27th, for Christine's last service. I'll be delivering the Story for All Ages.
5. We started Morning Sing today. It was great. Morning Sing will start quarter of (9:15 and 11:15) and will last 12 minutes. This happening every week (with the exception of the weeks when we start in the sanctuary).
6. I have a very interested and motivated group working on an RE Makerspace idea. Meaghan Shattuck, Arne Gullerund, Kristen Satterlee so far. Meaghan is pursuing start-up funding from Intel, and the application is due Oct 1. We are currently interviewing groups that we'd like to open the activities to and getting numbers for the application.
7. Not sure if the weeks we start in the sanctuary and the children's chapel, will remain the same. Waiting for Angela's return to address that.
8. High School youth will start a two-hour evening YRUU meeting, once a month initially, to enjoy social connection and also plan activities they want to be involved in.
9. Also waiting for date for regular monthly social justice activity, at Roadrunner.
10. Looking into an umbrella license for showing movies for the church. Desiree did some research and got some information regarding a license.

Colin Spooner, Youth Program Coordinator

- Dan Lilly has agreed to partner with us and help building our spiritual practices in high school and mid-high classes and events. Will attend first YRUU to lead spiritual practice.
- We need a male youth advisor for Mid-high.
- Youth and families will be doing social justice events at Road Runner on the second Saturday each month. It will be in the mornings from 10 to noon.

Desiree Spielman - Community Events and Update on Camping: Rather than monthly, picnics will probably be about 3 times a year. Attendance has fallen because there is usually another event happening that day. We will cancel our family picnic in September due to the pool party. In the winter we could think of offering a board game day. Would cost \$35/year for license to show movies. Mia thought that this cost could be share with other Church programs.

Nicia Rae - UU Kids Camp: Camp went well. No one was sent home or hurt. No behavioral issues. The bus broke down (without the kids on it thank goodness). We will continue to do fundraising year round. Geri volunteered to help with developing a camp manual of operations.

Callie Cone – OWL: We are beginning to gauge the classes we will have. You have to have one certified person to lead a class.

Future Dates

August

- Saturday, August 26th – First U Celebration of Christine Robinson
- Sunday, August 27th – Christine’s last service – formally called ‘release of the call

September

- Sunday, September 3rd – Pool Party at Sandia High from 4PM to 7PM
- Sunday, September 10th – Connections Sunday – Stirling + Geri
- Sunday, September 17th – Connections Sunday – Nicia and Benita
- Sunday, September 17 – RE Council Meeting (now know that four persons will be unable to attend meeting (Mia, Carol, Colin, Callie; Geri will poll Council to decide about holding meeting)

October

- Sunday, October 15 – RE Council meeting
- Friday, October 20 - Halloween Party at the Social Hall
- Saturday, October 21 - RE Council Retreat at Stirling's House from 5 PM to 8 PM

November

- Saturday, November 4 – Rev. Angela Herrera installation as Senior Minister
- Sunday, November 19th - RE Council Meeting

December

- Sunday, December 17th - RE Council Meeting

Upcoming RE Council Meeting Dates

- September 17th
- October 15th
- November 19th
- December 17th
- January 2018 no meeting