

RE Council Minutes October 15, 2017

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

Opening Reading

- The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members. - Coretta Scott King
- If You Want To Go Fast, Go Alone. If You Want To Go Far, Go Together. - African Proverb
- We have all known the long loneliness, and we have found that the answer is community.
- Dorothy Day

Slideshow: Geri shared a slideshow of pictures of the kids and activities from this past year.

Discussion

- Radical Generosity Committee:
 - Dimitri and Linda Hudson visited with us today as part of a "listening tour." Each year they are trying to expand and grow a spirit of radical generosity. Their belief is that generosity comes from connection and community. What is our role in regards to building community? This last year they tried to do small community dinners - but the problem was that they couldn't get the groups to come to the party. They are trying to figure out what works. We discussed the current stewardship campaign and thought about a way to integrate the theme of stewardship into the RE program. We didn't find any definite solution, but Mia and Carol agreed to look into a few curriculums that involve stewardship.

Reports

Geri Knoebel, Chair Report

- The 2018 Stewardship campaign is underway with the theme being "NOW More Than Ever." The Kickoff was October 1st with ice cream, music and other fun activities. Jump rope even attracted a few adults to try! There is a stewardship display in the Social Hall which includes a dashboard of information about pledging, members by zip code, and years as members and lots of photos of recent Church events.
- Thanks to Stirling, Benita, and Nicia who helped out at the two Connections Sundays held in September. **Next year we should change the location of the display closer to the RE Building.** Having children's books to give away was a good draw to the RE display.
- This Sunday, a couple of Radical Generosity members will visit the RE Council meeting to talk with the council about how to more effectively connect with RE families. Their focus is future-oriented; they aren't trying to come up with any new outreach ideas for the current campaign.
- Mia, Jane, and I worked on revising and updating the RE Website (<http://uuabq.com/religious-education/re-children-and-youth/>) which had not been done in quite awhile. The posted RE Council minutes are now current (I had overlooked

posting minutes since last fall!). All linkages to manuals and brochures are now made to the current versions of the documents including the *RE Council Resource Manual*, *Teachers' Training Manual*, *Youth Programs Manual*, and the *Childcare Manual*) Only the Babies brochure needs updating with more current photos.

- I would like to review the RE website with you so if you are able please bring your computer.
- The installation of Angela as our Senior Minister takes place on Saturday, November 4 at 4:00 PM which will be followed by a reception in the Social Hall. I am coordinating the food aspects of this special event. This will be a finger food potluck. Signups for food and volunteering for set up, servers, and clean up will be in the Social Hall starting this Sunday.
- If any of us have any stories about Angela (something kind that we can share) as part of a scrapbook for her installation as Senior Minister, please send Mia that information.

Mia Noren, RE DRE Report

- The Morning Sing program has been a big success! I have asked Susan to include the song "Thank You", to possibly sing at November service when we start in the Sanctuary. My vision is that the kids could start the song, and then the congregation could join in- in effect, the kids will be the song leaders! Mia also mentioned that this morning's sing in particular was very touching. It was really nice to hear the kids singing and participating. Desiree also mentioned that it logistically makes the morning go well. Kids show up early and they have something to do instead of the parents and the kids waiting in a classroom for the teacher to show up.
- Coming of Age calendar being finalized. The COA service will be April 29. Angela and Dan will come in for the UU Theology and History segments.
- I plan on starting OWL registration after Thanksgiving. Presently, I am beginning to slot teachers into classes.
- We're very close to having a multi-church H.S. OWL launched soon.
- Elementary classes have been going well. In particular, I've gotten positive feedback about the 4th & 5th grade class, after a rocky start. At 9:30, we were challenged by having only two students, who happened to be the children of the teachers, in the class. Now there are around 6 students. In the 11:00 class we started off with a behavior disaster, but that has been addressed and it's now smooth sailing in there. I've also received positive feedback on the new version of God Images that Carol has been authoring.
- I am back to managing improvements to the Arnold & La Amikoj rooms. I was unsure how to proceed there, as there's no budget, so I had stopped working on it. Paul would like to work with me on picking chairs out for the rooms again, but I let him know that I simply do not have the time to be involved in a fundraising effort. I've moved a dis-used rug from the church library into the Arnold room and rearranged the furniture. I am going to try hanging the felt banners of the seven principles in the Wesson Room, and hope that makes a visual improvement, along with managing the sound problems.
- Alana Rodriguez, my RE Administrative Assistant, has had a title change. As you know, she is very interested in religious education, and I have been including and training her in various aspects of running the program. At this point, she is very much more than simply my Administrative Assistant, and so, with the input of Angela, we have changed her title to **RE Assistant**. Her duties will not change, but we hope that the title change will help

people to know that she has some authority in RE and can be another source of information for people.

Colin Spooner, Youth Program Coordinator

- Colin and Dan Lilly have started up the YRUU (Young Religious Universalist Unitarians) and have had success.
- Our first YRUU meeting was a big success, with 7 youth, 2 parents, They have planned the next one for Sunday, October 29th.
- Also at that meeting, big enthusiasm was shown by youth for the upcoming food bank date- Oct 14. There was interest but that fell through.
- Mia and I are concentrating heavily on communication with youth and parents, and that is improving.
- Mid-High youth are busy planning the Halloween Party for Friday, October 20th. Alana is helping them through that.
- We are sending two youth and one adult to Fall Con- Ruth Mueller and Alyssa Rivera are going with Lia Atherton, and they are joining up with the Los Alamos youth to ride share up to Golden, CO.
- Going to have another YRUU meeting on the 29th.
- We will be having events on the second Saturday in November(11 - 2).
- Mia and Colin are working on communication with parents.
- Mid-High will be helping with the setup for the Halloween party.

Desiree Spielman - Community Events and Update on Camping

- The Halloween Party is on the 20th (6 - 9). The haunted house if the last hour. This is the last RE event until after the holidays.

Callie Cone - OWL:

- We are beginning to gauge the classes we will have. You have to have one certified person to lead the class.

Future Dates

October

- Friday, October 20, 6:00 to 9:00 PM - 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 (4 PM) – Rev. Angela Herrera installation as Senior Minister
- Saturday, November 11 (11 - 2) - YRUU event at Road Runner food bank.
- Sunday, November 19th - RE Council Meeting

December

- Sunday, December 17th - RE Council Meeting
- Sunday, December 24th – no RE; Worship services at 11:00 am, 5:00 PM, and 7:00 PM

January

- Sunday, January 7th – Teacher Training; Coming of Age starts

- Sunday, January 14th –RE Spring Session begins
- Sunday, January 21st – No RE Council meeting; OWL begins – tentative date

Upcoming RE Council Meeting Dates

- November 19th
- December 17th
- January 2018 no meeting