

RE Council Minutes

November 19, 2017

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

Review of Minutes: October 2017 Minutes approved.

Appreciation of Volunteer: We decided to give a letter of appreciation to Mikaela Renz-Whitmore. She's taught for years. She is super reliable and has always been a great teacher.

Chair Reports

Geri Knoebel - RE Council Chair

Angela's November 4th Installation and reception were awesome events. Recently we have had so many important events in the history of the Church from introspection, our goodbyes, and celebrations have brought the whole congregation together. I feel that as a congregation we have come full circle and we are off to new beginnings in our path forward. I feel so encouraged about our future.

Thank you. **I deleted the photos from the draft minutes only to reduce the size of the document. They will be included in the posted minutes**

Review of 2018 RE Council meeting dates

- January 21, 2018 – no meeting
- February 18, 2018
- March 18, 2018
- April 15, 2018
- May 20, 2018
- June 17, 2018
- July 22, 2018
- August 19, 2018
- September 16, 2018
- October 21, 2018
- November 18, 2018
- December 16, 2018
- January 20, 2019 – no meeting

Review of RE Council PortfoliosAs you know, the Council is structured so that each member has a portfolio of responsibilities (please see below). Most of these portfolios have been used for nearly 2 years. Mia has been giving thought to adding a social justice portfolio which we will be discussing at Sunday's meeting. In addition to discussing this new portfolio, we felt that it would be timely to review our current RE Council portfolios. The description for each portfolio has been excerpted from the RE Council Resource Manual. Council discussion follows the portfolio narratives.

Community Connections Lead

The Community Connections lead works with RE staff and with a subgroup of special events volunteers to plan and coordinate special events at which the main focus is community building. These events may include: RE Parent lunches, Family Barbeques, Halloween Party, Easter Can Hunt, pool parties.

Curriculum Team Lead

Understands RE's overall curriculum map, and leads a small team as needed to ensure classes are aligned with the map. Works with DRE to implement minor changes in map (e.g. swapping topics between classes). DRE and Curriculum Team lead propose major curriculum mapping changes (e.g. elimination of a subject area, or creation of a new one) to RE Council, which votes on them. Is a resource for teacher teams tasked with forming classes from the UUA curriculum, in summer and as needed. Helps RE move toward a model in which there is room for teacher creativity, but there is less variation year to year in curriculum, making the process more routine.

OWL Portfolio

OWL Lead works with the DRE, RE Staff, and OWL facilitators as needed to help with overall organization of OWL orientation meetings, parent meetings, classes, and other types of meetings (planning, wrap-up). Will help with recruitment and organization for OWL facilitator training, as needed. . Can help with organization of sending facilitators to train in other towns. Will help DRE explore and evaluate different modes of 'doing' OWL, especially for youth. Will be a member of the RE Council and participate in monthly meetings and create a monthly report when there is activity.

Program Evaluation

Consulting with DRE and minister, the Program Evaluation plans and conducts ongoing RE program evaluation in which child, parent, and volunteer feedback is collected. The Program Evaluation Lead then prepares a report, which the RE Council, DRE, and Minister apply to build on strengths and troubleshoot weaknesses in the RE program. Program evaluation includes RE Classes, Children's Chapel, Special Events, and intergenerational worship.

Recruitment Coordinator

Works with the DRE, RE Staff, and RE Council to improve the culture of RE volunteer recruitment from something we are always begging for to a requirement for families participating in RE. In doing so, the work will include experimenting with how to do it better and make it easier and more fun for people to volunteer.

UU Kids Camp Liaison

The Liaison is involved in the camp planning process, and serves as a liaison between the RE Council and the Camp Planning

Discussion of Portfolios:

Should we add Social Justice as a position? Please review the draft Social Justice portfolio charge in the agenda. (See UUA resource for social justice at <https://www.uua.org/families/justice>)

Draft charge: Participation in Social Justice experiences are foundational in our program. The church has designated 5 hours per week to staff person Beth Elliot to create and manage social justice programming for the general church membership. Social Justice experiences are also part of youth programming. The purpose of having a Social Justice portfolio holder on the RE Council is to have someone who could interact with Beth and work to find ways for children and their families to be able to participate in Social Justice with the church in general, and in other ways as their own group.

- Example - if the church planned on being a sanctuary, a Social Justice portfolio holder could represent RE in deciding how to participate in the church efforts for Social Justice.
- Examples of Social Justice activities might include:
 - Family event at Road Runner
 - Clothes donations (but we don't want this to be a buy things and give them away effort)
 - If we became a sanctuary church, there would be opportunities for children to come and play with the children of families in sanctuary, or ways for our families to help provide meals.
- There are individuals that would probably be interested. We would reach out to those people if we decided to move forward.

Recruitment Chair:

- Stirling added a few thoughts in regard to Recruitment. It has been a challenge for him to chat up parents when he is teaching. He thought he would be able to do talk to parents while monitoring kids on the playground, but it is difficult. The best opportunity to talk to parents is probably in the social hall - but again it is difficult to chat up parents when a person is actively managing their kids. Just thoughts.

Should Secretary be a position?

- The thinking was probably yes. We can also talk about this next week.

Buildings and Grounds:

- Steve Phillips originally held this position. He was just unable to attend a Council meeting. However, he has needed to focus on other matters in his life.
- Our regular staff will mow the yard and such, but there needs to be more active involvement.
- We probably need a clean-up day that is an event. For example, there are lots of leaves that need to get picked up.
- This position really has to do with playground maintenance, and not the building.
- We also talked about the public playground that was never built next to the church. While Geri is currently looking into this, this position could assist her in looking into that situation - what would it take for that playground to happen

Summary on Portfolio Positions:

- Our conversation on this should continue. Geri will add this topic to our agenda for next meeting.

Mia Noren, DRE Report

1. Will be communicating/hosting upcoming food bank date for youth & their families - Dec 9
2. Mia doing Children's Chapel for November. Will again include children singing the Thank You Song, segue from Morning Sing, and another message about Thanks. Also Teacher's Holiday.
3. Mia's 1st Messenger front-page article in December. Any suggestions what I should write about? (Continuing to learn, always)
4. Recruiting has begun for 2018 teacher teams. Mia did send out the sign-up. She made the teams 4 members instead of 3 members. We've had to use lots of floaters. It would be nice to get new people in. Alana will send Stirling a list of our newer families along with our Sign-up links, and Stirling can write something about what teaching is like and how it can be very impactful (like the experience Carol had today with the poems).
5. COA and Owl registrations available after Thanksgiving. These will be as PDFs in the Messenger, also Broadsheet and physically in the RE Building.

Community Events and Update on Camping - Desiree Spielman

- We finished with the picnics this year. Those are on hold until Spring. We will get through the holidays and revisit.
- Also had a discussion in regard to researching and obtaining a license to watch movies (so we can watch Harry Potter and such). Mia will pursue with church staff and look into it.

OWL – Callie Cone

- We are not going to do the survey this year because it was confusing last year. We are just going to do the OWL Registration and look at numbers.
- Mia and Callie spoke. We have a new curriculum for the 4th 5th OWL class. We have figured out the best way to schedule the elementary curriculum to finish before a two-week break in spring- Spring Break Sunday and Easter. We have teacher teams in place. We are also reaching out to Chris Mayo to see if he is willing to assist 4-5.
- K1 - There is no new curriculum. We would have a total of 9 classes. Starting in January, ending in March.
- We are opening up registration for Mid-High - but it's not likely that we will get the number of students signing up that we need.
- There is an adult OWL registration training in Tucson that we are considering sending one person to (based on budgeting). We need another facilitator to go to this to make the young Adult OWL to happen.
- Older adult OWL is still forming. There is a curriculum that is forming.
- Mia would like to see the younger adult OWL get going before the older OWL group.

Future Dates

- Sunday, November 19th – 3:00 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving at Congregation Albert
- Sunday, December 10th – First U Holiday Craft Day
- Sunday, December 17th – RE Council meeting

- Sunday, December 24th – no RE; no 9:30 a service; Worship service at 11:00 am (childcare for those 4 and younger); no RE 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM
- Sunday, December 31st – All Ages Service, no RE (childcare for those 4 and younger)
- Sunday, January 7th – 9:30 Coming of Age starts; 10:00 am – 11:30 am Teacher Training
- Sunday, January 14th –RE Spring Session begins
- Sunday, January 21st – No RE Council meeting; OWL begins – tentative date
- Sunday, February 18, 2018 – RE Council meeting

