

## **RE Council Minutes**

### **March 18, 2018**

**Attendees:** Benita Terrell, Carol Cowan, Callie Cone, Mia Noren, Desiree Spielman, Kathy McKnight

**Introduced:** Kathy McKnight visited RE Council and is considering joining. Next month: Eric Keiter will join us.

**Minutes:** Kathy McKnight

#### **Administrative Agenda:**

- Approved 18 February Council minutes.
- **RE Council Meeting Dates**
  - 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 mtg

## **Reports**

### **Chair Report – Geri**

- 1) Mia will be chairing Sunday's meeting as I will be in Tucson for my sister JoAnne's memorial service.
- 2) Mia and I worked on revising the Council portfolios taking into consideration recent Council discussions reflecting on our experience utilizing them. These definitions are living documents to be modified as experience warrants.
- 3) We folded those revised portfolios into Orientation Materials for prospective Council members (attached). The document also included excerpts from the RE Council resource Manual and the 2017 Annual Reports from Mia as DRE and myself on behalf of the Council.
- 4) Saturday's Social Justice Fundraiser was a great success. The event was well-attended, varied activities were offered, great food, new faces as volunteers, and strong sense of community. The RE Foyer was filled with great energy – protest signs were being painted, protest songs sung, and exhibits from numerous Church social justice organizations were provided.

### **Report from Camp Core Planning Team:**

The Camp Core Planning Team has met a couple of times. Alana is doing administrative work. The application forms for adult counselors will gather information to sort out who should be

*assigned to which group and to better inform applicants of the expectations for their roles at camp.*

*Registration is open now live for camp, but not yet publicized; still checking for bugs.*

*There are some young young adults 18-24 who want to be adult leaders and the planning team is working to define roles that will allow their participation. There had not been a role for them at camp. Angela advised the planning committee to look at the camp mission to decide whether a role should be made for them: the mission is multigenerational, so there is a need to find a way to include them. After High School, young adults are pushed out of the RE structure. However, there needs to be a significant age distance between leaders and group members so that they do not feel like peers. One area of responsibilities for the young young adults is to hand over David Simpson's responsibilities, as he will be leaving camp soon. Also to give them time with the younger kids. The young young adults will pay half-price: they are not fully-fledged staff and if camp paid their way, more experienced volunteers could not be supported. They will also provide their own transportation to camp. There will also be programming for the young young adults.*

*Nicia is concerned about the level of fund-raising so far for camp. The goal is \$8000.*

### **Coming of Age Report**

*The class is a little more than half-way through. Dan Lillie has been involved. Angela will be there next week.*

### **Interfaith Connections**

*There is going to be a suicide prevention workshop for ministers and religious educators at another church. There is a possibility to coordinate Interfaith group participation in the Pride Parade.*

### **Mia Noren, DRE Report**

*Mia has just begun her fourth year as DRE.*

*Mia just finished a Chaplaincy training in Colorado. Megan Shattuck, Lia Atherton & Alymay Atherton also attended, along with three of our youth.*

### **Desiree Spielman (Community Connections Portfolio)**

*The survey for movie night through Survey Monkey got 15 responses. Friday night was the overwhelming choice. The first movie night will be 3/30, 6:00-8:00 pm in Memorial Hall. The large TV will be used. Desiree needs to get keys to the RE building and to the closet. Need to check whether the TV has a Blu-ray or just a DVD player. The first movie will be Totoro. Desiree is hoping to plan one movie-night per month, alternating G/PG movies with PG-13 movies. This is a family event, not a drop-off event. This needs to be made clear in announcements.*

*We are discontinuing monthly RE picnics, because of low attendance, but there will be an RE/Family picnic with Field Day on June 3.*

*After Dimitri's pulpit editorial on April 29, contributions should increase*

***Callie Cone & Mia Noren: OWL***

*Today is last day of Elementary OWL; HS has another five weeks. It is going well. Geoff Skelton is one of the facilitators; seems marvelous. Gail Joralemon, UCC—going well. Committed to doing next HS OWL at the UCC.*

*OWL facilitators will be invited out to lunch once OWL is over, elementary and High School facilitators separately.*

*The rolling OWL training calendar that was created in the Mountain Desert District two years ago is suspended and we are going back to training as-needed. Mia doesn't see need for another one until 2020. Callie mentioned that there are still some people who are trained who have not facilitated.*

*Alana is going to Arizona to get an adult/young adult OWL training. Alymay and Kelsie Atherton are already Adult/Young Adult OWL trained. We don't have to worry about safe church for adult OWL. It can be married couple or single person. That will come out of designated fund. Young Adult/Adult OWL fees will go into that fund.*

***RE Social Justice (Benita Terrell)***

*Benita is looking for ideas to get the portfolio off the ground: to jump into activities that are already underway, not creating more meetings. Her vision is to provide opportunities for families to join and bring RE-age children and for families to talk with their children about social justice activities and issues in relation to church activities. Benita will coordinate with Alymay, who oversees the youth justice activities. Options might include contributing to Project Share by having families bake brownies at home or make salad. Pride Parade would be a good option. Today there is sign-painting for the 3/24 March for Our Lives this afternoon at Benita's house.*

***Thematic Ministry – (Mia and Carol)***

*Angela has decided to move the church into thematic ministry. She is using the Touchstones thematic ministry plan. We are already using Touchstones with small adult covenant groups. Nancy Bowen is on the team that creates it.*

*The overall theme for the year is "Let your Life Speak." All the monthly themes relate to the overall theme. In RE, we will take June & July and do thematic ministry experimentally. Angela is subscribing to it now so that we can see materials and theme plans. See attached handout overview. The packet has a lot of resources separated by age group and focus. You can sit down and create all of the programming with it. There are a lot of electronic resources with this plan.*

*Carol has a sample of what is included. Some of the materials are taken from Tapestry of Faith. The students won't be divided by grades, but by interest. Desiree, Carol, maybe Kathy, Brianne, Geri, Mia will work on the curriculum. We need to figure out a time to get together. We need an initial meeting to talk about how this can run. When we have concrete themes, we need to meet to figure out what it will entail. Carol will have a team. We need to figure out how this will be handled. Carol will look at materials intensively. This will be a lot of work initially that should not be all placed on Carol's shoulders.*

*Mia's vision: have a storytelling time then different rooms for different interests: (1) maker space, (2) quiet room, (3) storytelling room, (4) outdoor option. Can we coordinate the Harry Potter curriculum to coordinate with this? Carol suggests considering run Harry Potter at 9:30 and run the other option at 11:00.*

*Mia: We need to have a parent meeting and how to present the curriculum change to parents.*

*Messenger: Angela's front page is about thematic ministry. Congregation wide.*

*Need to consider how to manage movement and tracking of children between drop-off and pick-up given the organization by interest, rather than age. Idea: have nametag/clips go with kids and hang clip on a classroom board. Maybe draw everyone together at the end. Teachers will need to know how many kids they are responsible for at any given time. Hall monitor will be more important. May have to be a staff position. There should be limits – how many kids are in each station. We will need to recruit teachers for the summer—need experienced RE people along with new people to figure this out. Carol is gone all of June.*

### **Future Dates**

- *Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – April 25<sup>th</sup> – Food can collection*
- *Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – Angela Pizza Sermon*
- *Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm- Roadrunner youth service*
- *Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> – RE Council Meeting*
- *Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> – Coming of Age Service Rehearsal at lunchtime*
- *Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> - Coming of Age Service*
- *Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> – RE BBQ*
- *Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> – Sustainability Fair*
- *Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup> – Last day of RE classes*
- *Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> – Mini-camp Day, RE Council Meeting*
- *Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Field Day & picnic*
- *Sunday, July 22 to 27<sup>th</sup> – UU Kids Camp*
- *Labor Day weekend – Pool party*