

RE Council Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2018

Attendees: Mia Noren, Callie Cone, Stirling Crow, Carol Cowan, Nicia Rae, Eric Keiter.
Visitors: Phil and Abbey Clark

Administrative Agenda

- **Opening Words – Mia**
- **Minutes:** Approved June 12, 2018 minutes

Upcoming Meetings

- Next meeting will be August 19. We usually meet the 3rd Sunday of the month.
- We also liked the idea of having meetings offsite (perhaps at a brewery) on Tuesdays during the months when OWL is in session (January, February, March, April?, and June (if there is a conflict with Father's Day)).

Staff Reports

Gerri Knoebel, Chair Report, July Report

- We enjoyed being off-site for our June meeting and would like to consider holding our meetings during the week offsite. No decisions have been made about scheduling 2019 meetings.
- I have been very delinquent in posting Council minutes to the RE Council website. We are now current. Photos of all RE Council members are now posted.
- We still have a vacancy in the Recruitment portfolio on the Council. The portfolio description was revised by the Council in May. Any ideas for potential Council members?
 - Employs various methods to encourage volunteering in RE programming such as RE presence at Connections Sunday, create posters, participate in a pulpit editorial, send a recruitment letter email, from a personal perspective, to RE families. Works with DRE to come up with appropriate methods and reports the results to the RE Council.
- As I shared with the Council last month, Linda and I are planning on taking an extended road trip next year! Because of our long absence, this Fall, I plan to resign as the Chair of the RE Council. Ideas for a new Chair?
- Alymay and Mia prepared a very well done “Welcome to Youth Programs at First Unitarian (2018 Edition)” which was emailed to Church youth and families. The first youth meeting of the Church year is August 12th. This will be emailed to you separately.
- For the last couple of years, the Council has had a social gathering at a Council member’s house. Linda and I would like to host this year’s gathering in September. I will have a date at Sunday’s meeting.
- Over the last couple of years, the Council has recognized volunteers for their outstanding and noteworthy support of the Church’s RE programs. To date, we have

recognized: Alison Grady, Steve Phillips, Mikaela Renz-Whitmore, Keith Christopher, Mary Wright, Meara Christopher, Meghan Shattuck, and Lia Atherton. Who could we select for July?

Mia Noren, DRE Report, July 2018

1. I am continuing to be challenged with getting folks to volunteer in the summer. Summer attendance has been fairly constant at a range of 6-12 attendees per session, with two sessions having only one child. We've been squeaking by with only one volunteer at 11:00, except for this last Sunday when we had three. We had to cancel RE on Memorial Day Sunday due to lack of volunteers, but we still had nursery and staff on hand to talk to new folks and anyone else who needed to check in with us.
2. We continue to look for a new RE Council Chair. No one has come forward yet.
3. Camp is this month! We are still straightening out financial details. Our camp treasurer resigned without me really being aware of it so that's something that I've been working with other camp organizers to tackle.
4. I will also be going to camp, but not as part of the adult team. I'm taking a study leave and will be doing it at Sacramento, on the opposite side of the campgrounds from our group. I'll be able to participate in a couple of things while I'm there, and plan to spend most of my time studying and writing. This is also a study model for how a physically handicapped child or youth can attend camp, since I won't know until two days before they leave for camp if my own daughter will be able to start weight-bearing activity.
5. I've begun to make decisions on how to go forward into our new year with thematic ministry. We're used to starting our year in August, but the Touchstones year begins in September, so August will be a hybrid of the start of our year but using the last month of this year's Touchstones resources. I've called the group of people who were interested in being part of a curriculum team, to make sure they're still on board. I'll be going back to the age-based classrooms- I think getting volunteers is going to be too hard without our teacher teams. I'm also bringing Chalice Children back for our Pre-K classroom. Youth will proceed with the Touchstones themes.
6. Recruiting for teacher teams has begun. Teacher Training is Sunday, August 5th.
7. I'll be playing for the services with the dulcimer group on July 29th. I'll need help from the REC for Brie-Anne, because Alana is also off that day.

Alymay Atherton, Youth Programs Coordinator, July 2018

- Camp season is upon us! I have joined the CIT team to help foster connections with youth and see which leadership skills we should focus on this year.
- We started using thematic ministry materials in mid-high. Summers tend to be a time of low attendance, so I look forward to testing this model during the regular church year.
- La Amikoj is planning to soon move its regular meeting time to one that starts after service. This will allow childcare workers to participate and will allow youth to attend services, sing in the choir, or volunteer in RE without missing youth programming.

- While we haven't had attendance very much for La Amikoj open hours, this has been a great opportunity for youth advisors to develop connections with youth and learn more about their interests. We have one Friday, July 20th, remaining.
- In September, we will have our first Youth Adult Committee meeting. This board will steer special events for both the mid-high and La Amikoj groups and will follow a similar model as our district-wide YAC, which our own La Amikoj advisor Lia Atherton will serve on next year.

Chair Reports

Nicia Rae, UU Kids Camp Liaison

- Camp is here. It starts next Sunday. We are meeting here between 7:30 and 8 next Sunday. The bus should be leaving by 9:30.
- We will get back on Friday afternoon/evening.
- We have 10 counselors, 2 nurses, 15 Counselors In Trainings.
- There will be 44 total campers.
- Training for CITs will be on the 21st.
- The camp is down near Cloudcroft

Desiree Spielman, Community Events

- The parents of teens support group will move their meeting to a different time.
- Next family movie is August 31st, Spirited Away.
- The money that we make from seeing movies goes toward camp.

Carol Cowan, Curriculum Team

- The curriculum team will meet on Tuesday to iron things out.
- We will be working on age-based classes.
- We will brainstorm and work through ideas for the thematic ministry.
- Carol, Kathy McKnight, Alana, Brie-Anne, and Mia are part of this team.
- The sign-up for teachers will be posted this week.

Eric Keiter, Program Evaluation

- Eric didn't hear back from anyone regarding the email he sent out.
- He will resend another email out.

RE Council Retreat

- This is being scheduled for September 15th (Saturday) in the evening. Thank you to Geri and Linda for offering to host!

RE Council volunteer appreciation

- We really appreciate Desiree and all of the hard work that she has done over the years.

Discussion About Memorial Day Sunday

- We don't have teaching teams in the summer because people go on vacation and it's hard to get people to commit.
- Mia would like to make Memorial Day Sunday a "No RE Sunday." We just never have volunteers and the numbers are always low. Mia would like to make this a Memorial Day Sunday an RE Holiday. New Years is also the same way. None of us had any problems with this.

Council Volunteers Needed

- We need people to help Brie-Anne while Mia is out of town and when Mia is performing at the service.
- July 22nd – Teacher Holiday – Alana on vacation; kids leave for Camp
 - 9:30 - Stirling
 - 11:00 - ?
- July 29th – Brianne will be alone
 - 9:30 Stirling
 - 11:00 -?
- Connections Sunday – need volunteers to staff
 - August 26th: after 9:30 and 11:00 am services
 - September 9th – after 9:30 and 11:00 am service

General Assembly

- Mia attended General Assembly this year. She was able to attend as a member and as an RE representative. It was a wonderful experience with great workshops. Lots of amazing sermons and amazing people.
- Alana and Alymay also went. They made connections and are excited to bring back ideas.

Student Activists

Last Wednesday there were a number of our youth that are involved with "March For Our Lives" that got to meet students from Parkland that came here to meet and encourage activism and organizing.

RE Council Meeting Dates

- August 19, 2018
- September 16, 2018
- October 21, 2018
- November 18, 2018
- December 16, 2018
- January 20, 2019-no mtg

Future Dates

Upcoming:

- July 8- July 27- ROOTS camp in RE building
- Friday, July 20, 5:00 to 7:00 PM – La Amikoj Open House
- Sunday, July 22- Campers depart for camp

August 2018

- Sunday, August 5- Fall teacher training
- August – youth advisor training date to be determined
- Saturday, August 11- Youth Roadrunner work day 11-2
- Sunday, August 12- Youth chalice lighting in Sanctuary, Teacher Litany; first day of RE classes
- Sunday, August 19- REC meeting
- Sunday, August 26th – RE Connections Sunday

September 2018

- Sunday, September 2 (Labor Day Weekend)- RE Pool Party
- Saturday, September 8- Youth Roadrunner work day 11-2
- Sunday, September 9 – RE Connections Sunday
- Sunday, September 16- REC meeting
- Sunday, September 23rd – Stewardship and Capital Campaign kickoff
- Sunday, September 23rd – Blessings of the Backpacks (tentative date)

October 2018

- Sunday, October 21 – REC meeting
- Friday, October 26- Halloween Party
- Sunday, October 28 – Start in Sanctuary for costume parade