

# **RE Council Minutes – August 19, 2018**

**Attendees:** Geri Knoebel, Mia Noren, Callie Cone, Stirling Crow, Carol Cowan, Nicia Rae, Benita Terrell, Desiree Spielman, Eric Keiter

## **Administrative Agenda**

**Opening Words - Mia**

**Minutes: Approved July 12, 2018 minutes.**

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## **Staff Reports**

### **Geri Knoebel, Chair Report, August Report**

1. As you are aware, I will be stepping down as Chair of the RE Council later on this year. I am pleased to announce that Benita Terrell has agreed to serve as Chair. There are details to be worked out and we will be working together over the next several months. My interest and commitment to RE is on-going so I expect that I will continue to be involved until Linda and I go on our trip next April and after I return as well.
2. The date for the potluck gathering at my house needed to be changed. It will be Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> NOT September 15<sup>th</sup>. I hope that you and your family can attend.
3. Mia and I are in the process of updating the RE website with current calendars, manuals and other materials.

### **Mia Noren, DRE Report, August 2018**

1. Fall teacher teams training was Sunday 8/5. The teacher team situation is better than it was, but I had to cancel Pre-K classes on 8/12 because we still needed volunteers, and none of the volunteers we already had could come the first day of classes. While I don't want to have to combine any classes, thematic ministry will lend itself to that option more than a strict Tapestry of Faith curriculum would. We can't do it with Pre-K, though- if we'd had any, they would have gone to the nursery.
2. On the plus side, we have a number of new teachers this session:
  - o Christine Robinson in 9:30 Pre-K
  - o Arianna Espinosa in 11:00 Pre-K
  - o Kathryn Fearnside in 11:00 K-1
  - o Shelley Alonso-Marsden in 11:00 2-3
  - o young adult Julian Goodwin in 9:30 4-5
  - o Chase Henson in 11:00 4-5.

3. One of the reasons I agreed to the youth's wish to move their meeting to after services was so that they could participate more in the life of the church. I'm happy to say that six of our high school youth want to join elementary teaching teams- something that I've seen is successful in other UU churches. I'm excited to start working on this with the six interested youth and will probably arrange a special teacher training for them.
  - o We did discuss the distinction between having "employees" and volunteers". We can hire those that are under 21 and have two unrelated workers in the nursery. But they are not considered adults for volunteering in RE, and children and youth have to have two adults in the room for safe church.
4. Aide Brie-Anne Stout has accepted another position and will continue as R.E. Aide until September 30<sup>th</sup>. I am working with Paul to get the job posting publicized. Brie-Anne is a church member and will continue to be involved in RE as a volunteer, after a breathing period.
5. A curriculum team has formed to write the thematic lessons each month. The team consists of: Carol Cowan, Kathy McKnight, Desiree Spielman, Alana Rodriguez, Brie-Anne Stout, Mia Noren
6. Children's and youth's curriculum season began Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.
7. I had a very successful study leave. It was such a good experience to be able to dedicate hours of uninterrupted time to studying and writing.
8. I would like to start a small group for teachers to meet once a month to talk about our theme for the month. I am thinking a potluck with childcare, and that this would be a social as well as intellectually stimulating experience for our teachers. The other idea is something I need to talk to Beth about, because it's more inter-generational- I'd like to create a monthly, if successful, arts night for those inclined to explore the monthly theme in a more hands-on way, and this would be open to children, youth, and adults. Pieces could be taken home or displayed in the RE Building.
  - o We are thinking about having one the second Friday in September (9/14) from 6 to 8.

**9. Summer 2018 Attendance**

Date:	Nursery 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Service	2 <sup>nd</sup> Service	Youth	Total:
6/10	3, 3	3	3	4	16
6/17	0, 2	14	9	5	30
6/24	1, 2	11	13	0	27
7/01	0, 1	1	12	0	14
7/08	2, 2	11	10	11	36
7/15	1, 1	3	9	8	22
7/22	1, 0	8	8	0	17
7/29	1, 2	10	13	7	33
8/05	2, 5	10	16	2	35

**Fall Attendance**

Date:	Nursery	Pre-K	K-1	2-3	4-5	Mid-High	La Amikoj	Total:
8/12								
1 <sup>st</sup> Service	0	0	3	8	2			13
2 <sup>nd</sup> Service	1	0	5	9	10	9	13	47

## **Alymay Atherton, Youth Programs Coordinator, August 2018**

- We had a strong start to the church year in youth programs!
- The mid-high group met for the first time for an orientation to youth programs, when they began to craft their covenant.
- La Amikoj changed their meeting time to after second service (12:15-2 PM), which has been successful so far. We had thirteen attendees, which, according to our more seasoned advisors, is the most we'd had attend in several years. La Amikoj worked together to write a covenant, planned a potluck (where we'll plan out more of the year) for this Sunday (August 19<sup>th</sup>) a sermon discussion later this month (August 26<sup>th</sup>).
- We currently have three advisors on our Mid-High Team and four on our La Amikoj team, plus the Youth Programs Coordinator. Alymay is screening other applicants.
- Both Mid-High and La Amikoj will continue with Second Saturday Service Days at Roadrunner Food Bank in the coming church year.
- In September, a newly formed Youth Adult Committee will begin meeting, which will have representatives from Mid-High, La Amikoj, and the Youth Advisor team. This committee will plan youth-wide events, such as the Halloween Dance, service projects, and the Pride Parade Overnight, and at times, break into smaller groups to work on age-group specific events, such as field trips, overnights, and service projects.
- I'm excited to see what else the youth will plan for us this church year!

## **Chair Reports**

### **Carol Cowan, Unity/Diversity Thematic Curriculum Report**

- Carol Cowan, Desiree Spielman, Kathy McKnight (by phone), Alana Rodriguez, and Mia Noren met on Tuesday July 17 at 10am.
- Touchstones materials will be posted in Google Drive. The team will post lessons on Google drive. All team members will have the link and can access the materials. Jane will email Touchstones Journal to Curriculum Team members.
- Carol would like to experiment with different ways of doing the lessons.
- The team is meeting this coming Thursday (8/23).

Here is the plan for August.

**August 12: Sanctuary Start, Teacher Litany- short first day of fall classes**

**7<sup>th</sup> Principle. Unity/Diversity on the planet- interconnectedness of all beings.**

Resources: The story Rivers 3.4? Song: All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir, Peter, Paul & Mary version. Carol has a book of this. Activity: Mask on a stick 6.5. Bees. Riddle & Mystery Session 11 Touching All- story of Henry Bergh & ASPCA. Seventh Principle. K1 Creating Home: What Bees do at home.

PLAN: Everyone will use All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir- activities should fit each grade level and design activities that fit each grade level. Make class Covenant for each level.

**August 19: Regular session, Racial diversity and human unity.**

Notes: Rev. Margaret Barr story 3.5. 3.7 Story about rocks (Russell). 3.8 Diversity in Families, good for younger group. Storybook Whoever You Are 4.2. Storybook The Colors of Us 4.5. Chocolate Milk Por Favor (Kathy) Same Same But Different story, Book: Where Children Sleep.

**PLAN:**

- K-1
- 2-3 Rev. Margaret Barr story
- 4-5 Chocolate Milk Por Favor (Kathy)

**August 26 CHAPEL, short day**

**The Golden Rule.**

Resources: The Good Samaritan, that we need not think alike to love alike, same/different games (Optional, ONLY K-1 if we want to use it). See class 6.2 Moral Tales, session 8 for questions to be used with story. Use 3.6 poem Like Me. For 4-5 use for children's chapel? Activity 6.4 from Windows & Mirrors "Where Do My Beliefs Come From?" (NOTE: This is in Lesson 3 Activity 2)  
. Emmanuel's Dream, & Don't Laugh at Me song (4-5, Kathy) Activity: Machine Game

**PLAN:**

- Children's Chapel - Use poem Like Me, team led
- K-1 (Good Samaritan Option) (book- The Berenstain Bears and the Golden Rule)
- 2-3 Golden Rule in world religions
- 4-5 "Emmanuel's Dream", "Don't Laugh at Me" and the "Machine Game"
- August 23 at 5:30pm- next Curriculum team meeting

**Nicia Rae, UU Kids Camp Liaison**

Camp was great this year. There were no serious injuries, transportation failures, social conflicts or other significant trouble during the week. We did get quite a bit of rain! Camp staff will have a debriefing within the next couple of months. The fundraising team will also be meeting soon to resume planning for fall and winter events. We have to be aware of the availability for the social hall.

**OWL - Callie and Mia will meet soon to hash out dates for Mid-High OWL.**

## **Desiree Spielman, Community Events**

- The pool party is on September 2nd, from 5 to 7 PM at Sandia Pool.
- Movie Nights (fundraising) in the RE Foyer:
  - August 31 (Spirited Away)
  - September 28th (Brave)
  - October 19th (Coco)
  - November 30th(Charlie Brown movies)
  - No Movie in December!

**Eric Keiter, Program Evaluation;** Eric sent out another email requesting more stories regarding the new curriculum. Had one response.

## **Discussion**

### **Minor Modifications to RE Portfolios**

#### **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 and Fundraising Teams.

#### **Community Connections Lead**

Works with RE staff to plan and coordinate special events with a focus on community building. Recruits volunteer assistance as needed. These non-programmatic (not part of the RE curriculum) events may include:

- RE Parent lunches
- Family Barbeque
- Halloween Party
- Easter Can Hunt
- pool party
- playground cleanup day
- movie nights

#### **RE Council volunteer appreciation**

We decided to send a thank you to Chuckie McHenry. She has worn many hats (including being a nurse at camp) and she always asks if we need help. We will also send a thank you to Brie Anne for all of her amazing work.

#### **Connections Sunday – need volunteers to staff**

- August 26<sup>th</sup> - after 9:30 and 11:00 am services, Stirling and Callie
- September 9<sup>th</sup> – after 9:30 and 11:00 am service, Caline and Desiree

**RE Council Retreat:** This has been rescheduled from September 15th to September 29th (Saturday) in the evening. Thank you to Geri and Linda for offering to host!

## **RE Council Meeting Dates**

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

## **Future Dates**

### **August 2018**

- Sunday, August 19- REC meeting
- Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup> – Connections Sunday, w/ R.E. table
- Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>- RE Family Movie Night

### **September 2018**

- Sunday, September 2 (Labor Day Weekend)- RE Pool Party
- Saturday, September 8- Youth Roadrunner work day 11-2
- Sunday, September 9 – Connections Sunday, w/ R.E. table
- Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>- First Thematic discussion for teachers (need a better name)
- Sunday, September 16- REC meeting
- Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Stewardship and Capital Campaign kickoff
- Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Blessings of the Backpacks (tentative date)
- Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>- R.E. Family Movie night
- Saturday, September 29 – REC Gathering at Geri house

### **October 2018**

- Saturday, October 13, Youth Roadrunner work day 11-2
- Sunday, October 14, Teacher Holiday with Critter Club activity
- Friday, October 19-21, Youth Fall Con, Salt Lake City, UT
- Sunday, October 21 – REC meeting
- Friday, October 26- Halloween Party
- Sunday, October 28 – Start in Sanctuary for costume parade

### **November 2018**

- Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>- Youth Roadrunner work day 11-2
- Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>- REC Meeting
- Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>- Teach holiday

### **December 2018**

- Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>- Youth Roadrunner work day 11-2
- Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>- REC meeting
- Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>- Teacher Holiday
- Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>- Christmas Eve Pageant service
- Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>- No RE- Full Intergenerational service