

REC Minutes – Oct 20, 2019
RE Bldg, 12:30-2:00

Attending: Benita, Chris, Nicia, Desiree, Eric, Wendy, Callie, Carol, Mia

Administrative

- Sep Minutes Approved
- Wendy will take over as note-taker, but Eric will serve as backup.
- Dec 8th meeting moved to Dec 15th
- Meeting Dates for Spring:
 - January 21st, Tuesday, at Benita's house, 6pm (potluck)
 - February – no meeting
 - March 10th, Tuesday, at Benita's house, 6 pm (potluck)
 - April 19th, Sunday, at church, 12:45

Discussion Items

- Volunteers needed:
 - Oct 25th – Youth Halloween Dance – Chris will help out
 - Oct 27th - Elementary Halloween Party – need REC and teachers to clean up in 5th grade room)
 - Benita for cleanup after 1st service; Not sure if we need teachers. (2nd-3rd and 4th-5th are covered)
 - Callie can help after 2nd service
 - Be great if people from RE council could hang out and chat.
 - Nov 3rd & 10th – While Mia's at LREDA - need REC member to help out with setup:
 - specific tasks TBD each time
 - come in by 9am
 - talk to Alana.
 - Nov 3rd Desiree (both services)
 - Nov 10th Wendy
 - No La Amikoj this day. (May be scheduling fewer of these overall – Desiree will put together a survey monkey for Alana to send to parents)
 - Nov 17th Nicia will help (at which service?) Benita will help at the one Nicia's doesn't.
 - Need 2 additional teachers for Pre-K and K-1 at 11:00
 - Good candidate for K-1 that floated today.
 - 17 kids today in 4-5th grade class at 11:00. May need to add another adult to help out with this class.
 - Need for floaters to sign up
 - Very helpful if people can sign up in advance (at least by the Thursday before)
 - Program Evaluation - Rather than having a Program Evaluation portfolio, evaluation will be run informally by everyone on the Council. Feedback will be on the Agenda.
 - Curriculum - Carol is getting helpful feedback from the teachers in terms of what has worked or not worked (Example: story too long, kids liked the project, meditation does not work when there are more than 10 kids)
 - Family Sing – today they sang Baby Shark with lyrics adapted to UU principles. It was a hit. New UU songs tend to work well when they can be tied to a popular song, i.e., "Frozen"
- Potluck Theology – Mia is absent in Nov., Jun., and July – could we rotate leaders? Skip those months?
 - Alana will lead in November.
 - Mia will lead in December.
 - Start rotating leads next year, maybe in teams: Benita/Chris, Nicia & perhaps, Nissane, etc. Need to ask others like Phil and Abby.
 - Regarding themes, Soul matters ends in June but something can be pulled from the archives. Mia will want to get together with people who want to do it in summer.
- Mia's Sabbatical will be gone part of May, June and July. Coming back 2nd week of August 2020. Basically, entire summer session.
 - Mia wants to create a 3 person committee to oversee and implement
 - Should be made up of people who know RE and are comfortable working with the families

- Benita will be on it. Possibly Brie-Anne? Geri? Need to ask.
 - Details will be sorted by committee and to decide what does/doesn't need to be done.
- What part of Mia's jobs **must** be done? Alana may end up working more hours, but we're trying to avoid this.
 - Curriculum same as last year: Cooks and Books.
 - One room; paid childcare workers (Jacob, Brianna, Poe, Rob, Gina, etc.) will teach; it will cost \$480 for the summer
 - One adult volunteer is still needed each Sunday.
 - Carol will put the monthly calendars out. Mia will work with her on this before she leaves.
 - Carol will send Soulful Home out. Mia will send the link out.
 - Organizing Pride Parade
 - Organization begins well before June
 - Youth participate but historically haven't planned it. Different people in the church have planned it. Maybe the youth could help with that this year.
 - Maybe some Los Alamos youth would like to volunteer this year since some of our youth met them at the recent Youth Con up there.
 - Scheduling Pool Party and RE BBQ
 - The fall curriculum does not begin until September. Since it's difficult to get teachers in August, perhaps we should make August a transition month with end of summer activities, i.e., pool party, RE BBQ, etc. Teacher training could be on August 23rd or 30th. Then the curriculum could begin after Labor Day after everyone is settled into their fall routine with school, etc.

Portfolio Reports (see attached reports)

- DRE - Mia
- OWL – Callie
- Youth – Alana (Chris presents)
 - Ongoing issue of how to get youth involved; how do we get them interested?
 - Fewer meetings?
 - Meeting once a month for a lesson on life tools, i.e., handling finances, changing a tire, etc?
 - Starting projects like recycling with more unusual items like pill bottles, toothpaste tubes, etc.
 - Watched a documentary today with discussion afterwards. It went well.
- Camp - Nicia

Future Dates

October 25th, Saturday - Youth Halloween Dance in the evening
 October 26th, Saturday - Cardboard Monsters workshop evening, 5:00-8:00
 October 27th, Sunday – Costume and Monsters Parade in Sanctuary; then RE Elementary Halloween Party

November 8th, Friday – Potluck Theology 6-8:00
 November 15th, Friday – Game Night 6:00
 November 16th, Saturday - Roadrunner Food Bank 8-11:00
 November 17th, Sunday – RE Council Meeting 12:30-2:00
 November 20th, Wednesday - Chess Night 5:30-7:30
 November 24th, Sunday - Camp Auction

December 6th, Friday – Potluck Theology 6-8:00
 RE Council Meeting — December 15th???
 December 18th, Wednesday - Chess Night 5:30-7:30
 December 20th, Friday - Game Night 6:00
 December 21st, Saturday – Roadrunner Food Bank 8-11:00

January 21st, Tuesday, REC mtg at Benita's house, 6pm (potluck) if OWL conflicts; otherwise regular time on January 19th
 February 19th, Sunday – No REC meeting / annual break
 March 10th, Tuesday, REC mtg at Benita's house, 6 pm (potluck) if OWL conflicts; otherwise regular time on March 15th
 April 19th, Sunday – regular REC meeting at church 12:15-2:00

Mia's DRE Report October 2019

Past month:

1. Intergen service 9/29 with good attendance & participation by children -15 1st service and 26 2nd service.
2. Religious Educators meeting in Santa Fe & introduced YPC Alana to Santa Fe & Los Alamos DREs.
3. This month is 1-year anniversary of Potluck Theology. I am looking for some folks who would like to help facilitate the group, much as Theology on Tap operates. I will be away in November and in June and July, and possibly not quite ready to do this in August. I haven't heard from anyone yet, so I'm assuming we'll take November and the summer off.

Upcoming:

4. I have been working with Bob to plan my upcoming sabbatical. I need to recruit a sabbatical committee to help me plan for the time I'm gone & also have an overview of things that need to happen while I'm gone. Alana is RE Assistant who can manage things in my absence, but this is a long absence and she has her own responsibilities. I am working with Bob on this.
5. Plans for Monster workshop are proceeding. We want the workshop to be intergenerational, and for the whole church community to feel welcome to participate in the costume parade on 10/27. Angela's sermon topic on 10/27 is Monsters. (Pizza Sermon). The team and I collected materials, including a trip to Wemagination.
6. Need help from REC and teachers to clean up after the Elementary Halloween Party. Everyone who can should attend, as parents tend to hang out and mingle in RE Room 4 with the food and drink when they come to pick up the kids. Alana will be unavailable because Pizza Sermon, and Arianna should be out with her new baby.
7. Found out that attractive fencing for the habitat area is being bid on. Steven Phillips heard our concerns at the REC meeting he was invited to attend last year. The first estimate we received was for 17K, which Steve feels is a good price -more estimates are coming. Someone has made a gift of 10k to get this project underway.
8. I am working with Tina DeYoe, the DRE in Los Alamos, and Lia Atherton, our youth advisor, to get a youth advisor training going. We have a youth from Los Alamos willing to take on the youth trainer role, so now we're trying to come to a consensus on a date. It will have to be a Saturday, because the training is from 9:00 to 5:00. We're looking at December or possibly January.
9. We still don't have two additional teachers for our 11:00 PK/K/1 team, however I am waiting for someone who said she definitely wanted to do it to sign up. They haven't yet, and next time I see a vacancy in the class I will invite her to float. When Alana and I looked at who is coming to the class, we found that the teacher team members are regular attendees, and that the rest of the families coming to PKK1 are sporadic attendees, which may have a lot to do with why we're not getting anyone.
10. Laira had to withdraw as a member of the 4/5 team but it looks like they are handling that all right.
11. It's still a challenge to get people to sign up to float. I made a plea for this past Teacher Holiday and was able to drum up enough floaters to make it a go.
12. Nursery refurbishment project is complete! Alana and I are deciding what to put on the walls.
13. Finally, I am attending the LREDA Fall Conference. The theme this year is "Theologies of Suffering and Wholeness -Companions in Liberation. The main presenters are Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt, President of Starr King School for the Ministry, Dr. Elias Ortega-Aponte, Incoming President of Meadville Lombard Theological School, Rev. Sofia Betancourt, Assistant Professor of UU Theologies and Ethics at Starr King School for the Ministry, and Jennifer Hayman, Director of Music and Arts at All Souls Unitarian, Washington DC. I am also fortunate to be able to attend the workshop for DREs of Large Congregations -the presenter is Christina Rivera, and the topic is Supporting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Families in Religious Education. This is the last event at which I'll be recognized for achieving Credentialed Status. After the Conference I'll be attending

the Worship Renaissance Module led by Rev. Jude Geiger and Erica Shadowsong. This is one I didn't get to take while I was doing my credentialing work.

14. I will be away Nov 2-13, so that is two Sundays that Alana will be here on her own, if Ari doesn't come in. Wendy has already volunteered to help on November 10th, but I think we should also have someone available on November 3rd, in case of a big attendance.

Alana's YPC REC Report:

- The youth had a bake sale that raised \$325 for the Rainforest Action Network.
- Four of our youth attended the MDD Con in Los Alamos, with youth advisor, Lia! It appears everyone had a great time is enthusiastic about the con being here next year.
- One of the youth is supposed to bring a box from teracycle to collect plastic, nitrile, vinyl and latex gloves.
- We will have the Youth Halloween Dance on the 25th of October in the evening. I will need extra adults and have asked parents, but I have not heard from anyone yet. If anyone from REC wants to go, let me know.
- We will have a Pizza Sermon discussion with Angela on October 27th, so the youth will attend second service. The topic is "Monsters".
- We will start having fewer La Amikoj meetings in November while I work on building a stronger foundation among the high schoolers. I will also begin a High School only lunch group in November, with discussion topics on hand if needed. I have not decided a place yet, but the lunch is tentatively planned for the 17th.
- Alana and Chris met to discuss how to work with the youth in a cohesive way. The All Youth group is going strong but needs some redirecting to covenant from time to time since they get silly and want to socialize most of the time. Reminders that those social times are built in, but sometimes the group needs to be mindful of the times we have more formal lesson plans, and respectful of those facilitating them.
- Chris is also willing to help Alana recruit more youth advisors. Ideally, we'd have 3-4 more to meet our needs.
- There will be another All Youth social event in November, although it is undecided what it will be.
- Hopefully the youth and I can organize some fundraisers soon to help replenish the Youth account which pays for the activities we have been having.

Carol's Curriculum Report:

October's theme is "What Does It Mean to be a People of Belonging?"

- Carol and Mia prepared lessons from this theme.
- 9/22 45 minutes Session 2. Belonging to Yourself: Knowing Who You Are
 - PKK1- The Big Umbrella by Amy June Bates and Juniper Bates
- 2&3- MUSICIANS Of BREMEN adaptation by Roser Ros
- 4&5- Meditation for Belonging to Yourself <https://yogainternational.com/article/view/guided-meditation-for-self-love> for a beautiful meditation on Loving Yourself.
-
- 10/6 60 minutes Session 3. Belonging and Not Belonging: Finding the Courage to Leave
 - PKK1- Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
- 2&3- Stella Luna by Janell Cannon
- 4&5- Nerdy Birdy by Aaron Reynolds.
-
- 10/20 60 minutes Session 4. Belonging to Big Things: Opening to the Interdependent Web
 - PKK1- Stellaluna by Janell Cannon
- 2&3, 4&5- Rivers By Rev Christopher Buice
- meditation about interdependence.
- <https://prepareforchange.net/2016/04/01/thich-nhat-hanh-on-the-interdependence-of-all-things-in-the-universe/>
-

- 10/27 45 minutes Halloween Party- Carol plans Games for 25 minutes upon return from sanctuary, with food provided by RE in Room 4 after games
- PKK1- Prize walk
- 2&3- Scavenger Hunt
- 4&5- Balloon pop charades
- Carol & Mia are working on November's theme: "What Does It Mean to be a People of Attention?"
- [Session 1](#). Attention to our Inner Self: What Is Prayer?
- [Session 2](#). Attention to Needs Beyond Our Own: What Do Other People Need?
- [Session 3](#). Attention to the Now: Practicing Mindfulness
- [Session 4](#). Attention to Beauty Around Us: Gratitude and Appreciation

Nicia's Camp Report:

The Goodwill bins have been in the RE hallway since the beginning of October and will be there until the end of the month. We will get \$50 per bin and anticipate filling 3 or maybe 4 bins. Plans are underway for the Silent Auction on November 24th. Alana has agreed to recruit CITs to sing camp songs, although the Sol Singers will be unable to join us this year. We will probably have to forego the odds and ends table due to space limitations. The Memorial Hall has been reserved and arrangements have been made with the coffee crew to accommodate social hour in the same space. Weather permitting, we will have a couple tables outside with baked goods or other items. We will be securing donations and volunteers over the next month.