

RE Council Minutes
Sunday, Jan 2021
Zoom 12:15

Attending: Benita, Mia, Delano, Carol, Eric, Callie, Nicia, Chris
Chalice Lighting

Administrative

- November Minutes Approved.
- March Meeting cancelled due to Spring Break. Mar 14th as a contingency.

Discussion

What will RE look like when Corona Virus is over?

- Too early to be thinking about summer.
- Angela may change how church meets; It might limit RE to one session.
- Many parents use RE as a safe space while attending church; they're not necessarily there for curriculum. Attendance will increase when we return in-person.
- Maybe "Worship in the Wilderness," with kids and parents in the Bosque...where social distancing can be maintained.
- Hybrid model may be possible. Angela wants to keep what works with meeting virtually.
- When we do start meeting again, it would be good to add some new people to the Council.

In any case, there will be a return to basics. Teach principles, not dogma. It's good for kids to know them well and be able to discuss them. The goal of RE is to create UU's.

A special task force on how to meet in person again, will be formed in Angela's absence.

Chris is interested in serving on it to represent RE's interests.

What is Camp going to look like?

- Almost certainly not in Sacramento
- Virtual one day camp was very successful last year with 39 campers.
- Possibly a day camp close to Albuquerque would be a good compromise.

Medical organization will be vital. Callie can help with that. Mary is also involved in public health and will probably help.

Consult Megan and Meara for ideas?

Next month our theme is “Beloved Community.”

Portfolio Reports

Mia, DRE Report (See attached)

- Attendance at our Sunday morning Elementary RE sessions is holding steady.
- Will be doing "A Time for All Ages" (TFAA) one Sunday each month, while Angela is on sabbatical.
- Potluck Theology is
 1. I issued a statement on the UU RE Families FB page about ending some of the Friday programming. Once a program has dwindled down to one or two participants, it's not really a group anymore, and it should be discontinued. I think a hiatus will be healthy for Potluck Theology. We can start it up when we are able to meet in person again. [Group check-in has been cancelled now, as participation was low. We are keeping parents of preschoolers and keeping the movie.](#)
 2. Angela has let me know that church leadership is just beginning to think about how to organize to talk about meeting again. The Board will be working with a Strategic Planning Committee and the Covid Task Force. I will be talking with folks to make sure that RE issues are considered as the work goes forward. [RE issue: vaccines not available for children yet, and not for a while. According to Delino, you can get the Pfizer vaccine at 16, so it might be possible for some of the older youth to get it.](#)
 3. A new Intern will be starting with the church in January. You will learn more about him this Sunday. [New ministerial intern in AUGUST. We will hear more about him soon.](#)
 4. Coming up, President's Day is February 15, and there will be an RE Holiday on February 14. Spring Break begins March 21, which is a day REC would normally meet. Would we like to consider alternate meeting dates for March?

Alana – Youth and Camp Report

For camp, there's nothing new. The only thing we'll be doing right now is watching how things with the virus and vaccine go to decide if in-person camp will be possible.

For youth: The newly restructured meetings seem to be appealing. Attendance has gone up for virtual check-ins, but remains lower than it was this time last year, which is ok! Among Us was really popular, so we'll likely do that again. Otherwise I am continuing to find ways to bring in community members and some fun new things. This month we're doing laughter/yoga which I'm excited about. I'm also trying to figure out how to bring back Pizza Sermons in an online format. Coming of Age has started and there are four participants. With any luck, Minecraft will roll out this month. I am attending weekly Zoom meeting with other religious educators who have either been doing Minecraft, or want to and are just and intimidated as I am.

[Report from Chris. Need help from the youth to get going on Minecraft. \(ChUUrchcraft\) Carson has agreed to help, and possibly some others. Another high point is that some regular attendees are new to mid-high. Opportunity to reboot the program with younger kids, who can be future leaders in the high school age group.](#)

Mia: Alana is working on Pizza sermon today, meeting with Bob. Note: the Minecraft game is real Minecraft. Somebody wrote a curriculum for it (neighboring faiths type of program) but we may choose to not use it. Recent development: there is a group meeting regularly who are successfully running this.

Also, budget. There was quite a bit of money left over, so Mia arranged to buy a laptop for Alana. Hopefully there will be enough space on the laptop to run Minecraft.

Issues for Minecraft (responding to Q from Nicia): Clarification that this really is Minecraft. Limitations on # of participants (10 on a server, so we probably need 2 servers). Need to make it a safe space. Do we need to have advisors present. Looking at how other churches are doing this. Have not made any decisions on curriculum about it yet. One of the popular things about camp is called "Sacred Spaces" where kids build things in the woods with natural materials. Possibly something like this could be done in Minecraft.

One example from another group; kids built a "Temple of the Sun(South America)".

Q from Carol: what age group? A from Mia: 4th grade and up. Thinking about 2 different groups. Would be nice for it to be an intergenerational experience for folks, kind of like camp. Hopefully by next month Alana can attend the RE council meeting and give more details.

This (Minecraft) has turned out to be more complicated than expected.

Mia: considering having both an "open time" and also a time that is supervised. Could have the kids create a Minecraft covenant.

Delino – Community Report

For the community portfolio: the last event I would say was a success. The turnout was decent and those who were there seemed to enjoy it. I would like to try to do something similar in the future (although I'm not so sure how that would work in a non-holiday context). Right now, for the next event, Alana, Benita, Mia, and I are thinking of ways we can adapt some in-person ideas to a virtual format (sending postcards, etc).

Last event was the holiday party. Around 15 kids. Carol sent Mia the attendance. Success in terms of turnout. Also the people who were there enjoyed it. Scavenger hunt was really successful and went quickly. Kids were also engaged with the "12 days of Christmas". Would like to do something similar again, possibly around another holiday. Maybe Valentine's day. Could also do a game. Yatzee, Bingo, Scatagories, etc.

Mia: doesn't have to be attached to a holiday. Can just be a "game night". Sometimes hard to tie holidays in, and the point is to have fun.

Carol: Could also do St. Patrick's day. Could have kids wear holiday themed attire.

Everyone (to Delino): thanks for doing this, it went really well.

Carol's Curriculum Report

On Saturday Dec 5, I purchased stamps at SAM'S. I distributed stamps and card to Eric & Nicia, and stamps to Callie and Benita. Q: about feedback on holiday cards. Several of us sent and received them. I picked up & then cleaned coffee cans that the Christopher-Wrights had saved for RE.

In December, I made these suggestions to Mia:

1. In December, we started asking an **icebreaker question** in place of roses and thorns. The joys and concern answers had become predictable, this changed things up a bit. Today this went really well.

2. The kids know the children's affirmation; we switched to the **children's version of the UU Principles** at our first meeting in January. Hopefully the children will learn the UU Principles through repetition. We added the 8th, which we expect will be confirmed by the UUA.

1. Each person is important.
2. Be kind and fair in all you do.
3. We're free to learn together.
4. We search for what is true.
5. All people need a voice.
6. Build a fair and peaceful world.
7. We care for our planet.
8. We must work together for diversity and against racism & oppression.

Carol and Mia have had to add a lot to the lesson plans. For example, some things not appropriate. Some lessons have emphasis on meditating, which doesn't work online with kids. Trying to add material that works for the current situation.

When we meet in person, we may use the UU Affirmation with the PK - 1, the Principles with 2&3, and the Sources with 4&5. This will be in addition to Thematic ministry. When we first started thematic ministry, we had a chart for teachers to record what principle or source related to the lessons.

January 10- Mia and I had a short discussion after RE Sunday School.

As a discussion topic, we would like advice from RE Council about these items:

For agenda- How will we do RE again when Corona Virus is over?

What are we going to teach?

What do parents want RE to accomplish in relationship to your children?

Keep in mind that children are not getting the vaccine. How much can be done outside?

Carol suggests stumps (arranged with social distancing) for seating if RE is held outside.

After our discussion, I sent Mia curriculum from Tapestry of Faith that teaches the Principles. Links to the folders in Google Docs were provided.

- **Love Surrounds us is the K-1 principles curriculum.**
The entire curriculum with all lessons that I taught is in Google docs.
- **Faithful Journeys for grades 2&3 is about the 7 principles.**
I taught this 3 times- Fall 2012, Fall 2014, Spring 2017.
All lessons are in the Google docs folder.
- **Toolbox of Faith- grades 4& 5** is about Principles & Sources. I have not taught this.
This is in Google docs, but I do not know who wrote the lessons. Perhaps Mia?

UU Principles Fingerplay: https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=yset_chr_syc_hp_s&p=UU+Principle+hand+motions+for+children#id=1&vid=04b3e1d90122507e4d5d96b44355e0aa&action=click

However this may have a copyright issue? UU Principles song-
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zKEaMj4-mg&ab_channel=SteveAskins

I sent Mia the Kids UU Songbook. the curriculum when we start meeting together again:

Kids UU Song Booklet https://eruuf.org/images/content/Learn/Song_Booklet.pdf

Paste principles into chat box.