

RE Council
Sunday, June 13, 2021
Zoom 12:15

Attending: Mia, Benita, Chris, Carol, Eric, Callie

Chalice Lighting

Administrative

- May minutes approved
- Next RE meeting on July 18th
- Council meets with Strategic Planning Committee on the 29th of June (6pm) to discuss 5 year plan.
- Motion to accept Vision Statement - approved

Discussion

Reports:

Mia:

Here's the link to the welcome letter and invitation to register for the SUUmer AdventUUre JoUUrnal: <http://uuabq.com/summer-2021-in-religious-education/>

There will be no Sunday school this summer. My concentration is on the Adventure Journal and planning some safe, in-person events for family pods to participate in. Please see the welcome letter for more information. On the virtual side, I'm thinking that our elementary students may enjoy some Zoom games. I will be working with Angela on how RE will fit into her new vision for how we all gather in community in the fall.

We need to revision how we move forward, since we have been apart for over a year, which is a big deal for kids. Also, Mia needs a break. Summer attendance tends to be low. Summer adventure journal is awesome. So, we are doing the adventure journal this summer instead of RE. Note, at the end there are stickers. Discussion of geocaching and having one setup near church. Could be fun to set one up near church.

Mia has been considering having gatherings of people (families) in person. Currently we can only have a certain # of people at church, small groups of 12 (15?) and under. One activity could be a Bosque hike. We could do that. Angela expressed an interest in coming to some of these. One activity is learning about the flower communion. If restrictions get less restrictive, we could have a water play day. Considering doing these on Sunday afternoons. In the

meantime, Mia will be working a lot with Angela on revisioning how we'll get together, when we can get together again.

Carol: I put "chalk games" into the google docs. Could be done in the parking lot.

Mia: **Next part is discussion of vaccination.** Board of trustees makes plans based on the expectation that people are vaccinated, but will not ask parishiners for proof of it for them. However, staff must be vaccinated. Young kids cannot be vaccinated yet. **When we get to point of volunteers working with kids should we require vaccination? Everyone: YES.**

RE Registration is open now and deadline is 25th. Sending journal packets now so people get them by July 1. We will be working on the "when". We want to pick a few really good activities.

Also, Alana is in process of buying our own projector (for movie nights at church). These will probably be outside. But will still offer virtual movie night. We could also offer "game night."

OWL: We had OWL classes going on when everything shut down. Not worried about K-1, because they only missed their party. Other grades had more to go. Have thought about asking owl facilitators if they would like to finish this summer. But it would require refresher, since it has been a long time. So may ask them if they will do a fall OWL class and a spring OWL class so people can catch up. For owl classes that were interrupted, this would be no charge. I haven't talked to Callie or any facilitators yet.

Carol: I have a question. Building needs sprucing up. Some of the plants should go. Mia: right now, all the plants are in the foyer, to make them easier to water. I'll think about that. We should get rid of plants that aren't doing well. But I like having something living in a classroom.

Carol: soon we'll be receiving the fall curriculum.

Mia: I'll be meeting with Angela about this. We will be using Soul Matters again. They apparently have changed a lot, to be more action oriented. We will see what that looks like, and hopefully is an improvement. That is something I want to bring up w/Angela; changing the times of sessions. So, there is an entire hour in between to do RE. Which means whole RE community meets at same time.

Chris: Would parents be required to stay on campus for this?

Mia: Yes, it is in our policy for safety reasons. We are hoping they will want to be part of RE (family oriented)

Benita: What do kids do during church?

Mia: Playgrounds. I would hire people to watch the kids on playground.

Mia: discussion hasn't gone very far yet, was discussing this with Angela before her sabbatical.

Mia: Could be time for adult programming.

There is a “rotation model” – rooms based on different interests, that you can choose: art, games, stories rooms. This has been used successfully by other churches, very successfully. We would like to narrow the distance between RE and the sanctuary.

Chris: Another thing to take to Angela is town halls. Right now, people with kids either have to keep kids quiet, or just not go.

Mia: We would have childcare.

Chris: The town halls could happen at same time as RE.

Mia: we will still need volunteers. Don't want to go to a paid-teacher model.

Carol: With a rotation model, need fewer volunteers.

Mia: for example, if all the volunteers want to attend the town hall, we could choose to have a playground day.

Chris: I was thinking of parents, who might not want to participate in RE, but would be interested in a town hall.

Mia: there will be classes and (still) the coffee hour.

Carol: May/June Curriculum:

My grade level suggestions are available when the month begins so that Mia can reference them for the Bitmoji classroom and lesson. Mia and I continue to exchange ideas concerning REs return to meeting in person. Nissane serves as doorkeeper while I take attendance for the Children's Zoom meetings. Attendance is consistent with 5 to 12 people.

I posted 8 reference pages (Grade 2-5 curriculum) for May in the SM Google folder. The materials provided by Soul Matters for the Story theme were terrific and that makes figuring out lessons much easier. I liked the UU history lesson about John Murray and Universalism, the story was interactive, and the children enjoyed participating.

Eight pages were posted to the Google folder for the June theme of Play, which also included some ideas for July and August. The materials needed some supplementation especially the Puppet lesson. I am ZOOMED OUT and running out of steam at this point!

Youth (Alana):

I was hoping to get youth coverage and attend, but it doesn't look promising. For summer I am planning on having some (mostly) outdoor youth events, like a bbq, water play day, and movie. I'm in the process of purchasing a screen and projector, so we can also have community movie nights. We will continue to play Minecraft, and have some virtual offerings as well. I'm also working on a celebration for incoming 6th graders.

Chris (giving youth report): best attendance we've had since beginning of pandemic. Now can meet in person, so we will have first in person meeting with youth soon. Before pandemic we were talking about low attendance of HS youth. But we are getting a core group of younger youth that will transform the program as they get older. Several kids are regular attendees. We had 7 or 8 kids at the last meeting a week or two ago.

For a functioning youth group, it's very important that they are friends.

Chris : this group has the shared experience of camp and RE so I'd say they are friends.

Carol: at some point should we be looking at council positions, etc?

Mia; yes, but I'd prefer to wait until Angel and I have better idea about revisioning. So not until fall.

Mia: BTW, our new intern will be starting in August sometime.

Benita: How can we help w/ summer activities.

Mia: If you are interested, I would welcome help. Alana (as admin) will handle registration. Flower communion.

Benita: How often will these events happen?

Mia: twice a month.

Camp (no report). Benita will reach out to Nicia to see if she would like to remain on council as an at-large member. We may not need a camp liaison until we have in-person camp again. Mia will ask Alana to provide camp reports.