

## RE Council June 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Geri Knoebel, Mia Noren, Angela Herrera, Desiree Spielman, Carol Cowan, Nicia Rae, Stirling Crow, Colin Spooner, Callie Cone

### Administrative Agenda

- Opening Words:
  - "Life is a gift for which we are grateful. We gather in community to celebrate glories and mysteries of this great gift." - Marjorie Montgomery.
  - Introduced Callie Cone to the Council Colin Spooner, will provide opening words next week.
- Angela Gave RE a Big Plug In Her Sermon:
  - "...Every one of us is tasked with teaching that to our kids. Even if you don't personally know the kids, you teach by your example, by being part of this congregation, by supporting this place, by showing up here, and being the best self you can, in the most compassionate non-judgmental way you know how.

And if you want to do something more directly to work toward a peaceful world— sign up to be a Sunday school teacher a couple of times per month. Really. The more volunteers we have, the more children we can welcome into our program. The more children we welcome into our program, the more people there will be in the years to come practicing a religion of non-judgment and acceptance."

- Introductions:
  - Callie Cone is new to our council! She will be joining the OWL portfolio.
  - Colin is the new Youth Programs Coordinator This is his first meeting. He will be heading up the youth program. He is from All Souls in Tulsa!
- Approving the Minutes: The May minutes were approved.
- New Volunteer: Mia mentioned Joyce Etheridge is volunteering as a teacher and is interested in curriculum
- Teacher Training Manual:
  - Geri is asking us to review the Teacher Training Manual and provide feedback.

### Reports

Geri: Worked with Mia on the draft for the Teaching Training manual.

Mia: Facebook pages: Beth and Mia are discussing the distinction between the First UU and the RE Facebook pages and the RE Council page. Mia will follow up with Beth.

Benita - Program Evaluation: We reviewed the survey feedback reports.

- Discussed the curriculum for the 4th and 5th graders. Perhaps a Harry Potter Curriculum?

- Children's Chapel and starting in the Sanctuary – this is great, but let's make sure that they shouldn't go beyond 15 minutes in length. It hinders the curriculum and the kids' attention starts to fade. Suggested do some movement activity when going from Sanctuary to RE.
- Middle School and High School - Not a lot of feedback. Email and Facebook doesn't work with the youth. Colin will look into a texting app perhaps for communication
- One of the comments was about how the kids seem like a more stable group of kids. Carol made an interesting point that if the parents are more involved and teaching, then the kids attend there on a more consistent basis.

Carol Cowan - Curriculum: Carol will look at the songs included in PS & Pk, K &1, 2 & 3 curriculum will and pass along songs that we can be taught in choir.

Nicia Rae:

- Camp update. As a result of RE fundraising efforts and special appeal, \$4,556.02 was raised for UU Kids Camp scholarships. They are doing some budget cutting. Ideas for t-shirts. Main concerns: Finding a new nurse and new registrar for next year. There are 38 kids signed up for camp. Alana and Nicia will be working with Keith to begin knowledge transfer so that they can do the registrar piece next year.
- If we know of any nurses that are willing to help let us know. Heather Black and Heather Veitch are both nurses that Mia recommended.
- Nicia talked about concerns with some of the complexities involved with organizing the camp and how those involved in the original grassroots effort of creating the camp may be feeling abandoned as the camp begins to grow and require additional staff support (beyond the original requirements of the grassroots effort). Angela addressed Nicias's concerns and told her that there would definitely be a review of the camp program since we are growing.

Stirling Crow - Recruitment:

- We got feedback from letter sent to about 30 to 40 parents who have not fulfilled their 16 volunteer hours requirement. A new youth advisor resulted from this effort. We feel like the culture and understanding of parent involvement (of at least 16 hours) is getting out there.
- Stirling will try and ask parents in his class about being floaters this summer. One of the best time to talk to parents is when parents pick up the kiddos at the end of class (it's hard to have conversations in the Social Hall).
- Thank you to Angela for giving RE a huge plug in the sermon today. We will follow up on this by: Stirling will add a Facebook Message to the UU Families Facebook page. Mia will add a note to the eBroadsheet.
- For the first time, RE will be present at Connections Sunday the Sunday before and after Labor Day. Stirling will make plans on being available to answer questions pertaining to RE on both of those Sundays: 28 Aug and 11 Sep 2016

Desiree - Events:

- We had a very nice, well-attended RE family picnic.
- Next picnic is 03 Jul 2016. If hot will open up the nursery to the shaded playground. As treat will have ice cream.
- Researching renting a pool for August Sunday event.

Cliff

- Cliff was to be the building and grounds portfolio holder. He will be going abroad. We may need another building and grounds person.
- Mia received funding from the Board (\$3000) to spend on the playground equipment. Some ideas include permanent picnic tables, retaining walls, etc...

**Action Items**

- New policy approved by Council and will be made part of the Childcare Manual
  - “In the event that at least one adult caregiver is not present, two trained child care workers under the age of 18 may work together, and a staff member or other appropriate adult volunteer will check on them periodically.”
- New policy for divisions in the Youth Program approved by Council
  - 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades to be mid-high and group of their own
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Coming of Age + another project probably social justice related
  - La Amikoj (9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades) – the same

**Discussion**

- Everyone - Please review the Teacher Training Manual and let Mia and Geri know if you have any suggestions. Student/ adult ratios will be added to the Manual.

Age	State Requirements		First U Requirements		Incline to add 1 adult when there are:
	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	
Baby/Toddler (0-3 yrs)	1	6	2	6	more than 6 toddlers
Pre-school (3-4 yrs)	1	12	2	12	more than 12 preschoolers
School age (5 and up)	1	15	2	15	more than 15 school age

- Please think about suggestions for an RE Council Social Retreat - something for us to get together and have fun.

**Upcoming Events**

- 03 Jul 2016 - Next Picnic.
- 17 Jul 2016 - Next RE Council Meeting
- 06 Aug 2016 – tentative date for pool party
- 07 Aug 2016 - Teacher Training; Autism Training

- 28 Aug 2016 and 11 Sep 2016 - Connections Sundays before and after Labor Day where we should have an RE presence.
- 09 - 11 Sep 2016 - OWL MDD Training Workshop. - We will probably need home-stays for folks flying in. If all classes are filled then we will have 60 people!
- 11 Sep 2016 - Tentative RE activities - UU Birthday party
- 21 Aug 2016 - Gun and Safety Workshop