

RE Council Meeting Minutes September 16, 2016

Attendees

- Geri Knoebel, Carol Cowan, Benita Terrell, Kristen Kennedy, Nicia Rae, Hannah Stephens, Colin Spooner, Desiree Spielman, Stirling Crow

Administrative Agenda

Reading

- Geri read the intro reading.

Admin Reports

Geri Knoebel (Chair):

- Stewardship Campaign has begun.
- Thank you to Chris and Benita for the gathering at their house!
- Welcome to Kristen and Hannah!

Mia Noren (Director of Religious Education):

- Mia was unable to attend today. However, here is her report:
 1. There is still flux in our youth programming. One of our Coming of Age advisors requested that I poll the parents to see if they would rather have the non-Coming of Age part of the class at 11:00. There was another suggestion that we put 8th graders back in with the 6th & 7th graders on those off weeks, which I do not want to do. I am waiting for the poll results.
 2. Until the floaters list is full, I'll be encouraging people to sign up as floaters.
 3. Our pool party was an immense success. I'd like to hold another one in the winter and will work with Desiree to get that scheduled.
 4. OWL Facilitator training for K/1 & 4/6 and 7/9 & 10/12 took place September 9th, 10th, & 11th. Callie Cone arranged all of the home stays and meals, and ended up helping out the folks who were inconvenienced by the lockdown at the Albuquerque Sunport. Big kudos to her and to all of the volunteers she gathered to enable us to hold this very important training. We now have an additional 6 elementary and 6 secondary certified OWL facilitators!

Angela Herrera (Minister):

- Angela was unable to attend. She is hiking the Grand Canyon for her birthday! She will be out on a mini-sabbatical for the next 6 weeks.

Colin Spooner (Youth Programs Coordinator):

- Mid High continues to learn about social justice curriculum.
- We also wrote letters to congress members in regards to UN Resolution regarding rights of children.
- Coming of Age curriculum has started. There were 7 youth that attended the first meeting.
- In La Amikoj we had lessons revolving around spirituality, music, and popular culture.
- We are still aiming to do a Youth Cluster on September 25th - but the other congregations (Sante Fe, Durango, etc..) may not be able to particulate.

Chair Reports

Desiree Spielman (Community Events):

- The Pool Party at Sandia was a success.
- Most of the families there were either elementary school or middle school.
- Great event - we should do it again.
- Probably not a good idea to try and pitch people on RE stuff. Perhaps maybe have a sign though that identifies us as a group (First UU RE Pool Party)? We'll talk about this before the next pool party.
- It looks like the Halloween Party (where we do the Cake Walk) and the Lantern Fest are both scheduled for 28 Oct 2016. Colin and Desiree will talk with Mia and Alana to see if we can do the Halloween Party and reserve the social hall on either October 29th (Saturday) or October 30th (Sunday).

Callie Cone (OWL Portfolio):

- OWL training last weekend was a success! We helped train 17 other teachers from other congregations and 12 teachers from our church. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Nicia Rae (UU Kids Camp):

- There was a debriefing regarding the camp - (all the counselors - around 15 people). Craft activities were positive, we had experience counselors, communication also seemed positive.
- CIT - Counselor in Trainings. They are pretty much running camp. There was some discussion in regards to whether this is too much fun. They want to have fun too. So we are working through those items and having discussions about that.
- There was talk about the church buying a piece of property up north (with folks in our cluster) - and this way other groups might be able to use this. There was also a conversation about using the building that the East Mountains UU branch uses (when it's not Sunday).
- The debriefing also discussed how to deal with rotating leadership.
- Benita mentioned that the kids in the Malapalos group are starting to be the right age for camp. The Malapalos group is very interested in having their kids be part of the camp.

Stirling Crow (Recruitment):

- Stirling attended the first Connections Sunday and was a presence for RE.

Carol Cowan (Curriculum):

- Mia and her will meet and have a discussion about the Spring Curriculum and scheduling in regards to the OWL training.

Benita Terrell (Program Evaluation):

- Benita asked about how often she needs to be reporting on the programs?
- The group thought it would be appropriate to provide a report twice a year.
- There was discussion about reaching out to parents that haven't attended RE since Mia began running the show. The state of RE is different now and those families might really like RE now.

Discussion Topics

- RE Council Structure
- Revised RE Council Resource Manual
 - Information regarding this was sent out via email.
- Safe Congregation:
 - Child Protection Policies - These policies deal with harassment, threats, sexual behavior, etc...
 - These have been reviewed by a certain task force and will be reviewed. It's not very different than what it was before. Regardless, we (the RE Council) scanned over these and offered input.
 - Desiree brought up that there was a part of this that might not be in compliance with state law (if an adult is aware of abuse they **MUST** report - in the past the mandate was to report to a supervisor, and that is not in alignment with the statutes now). Desiree will send Geri more information. Geri will review and look into this further.
- Request for volunteer to assist Alana on October 9th during the teacher holiday.

Upcoming Events

- September 23rd (Friday) - NM Cluster Youth Worship.
- September 25th (Sunday) - First meeting of new extended family.
- October 30th - Halloween Costume Parade for the children during the service!
- November 6th - Day of the Dead Parade in the South Valley. All are welcome to come and celebrate with Geri!
- November 15th (Sunday) - RE Council Meeting.
- December 18th (Sunday) - RE Council Meeting.
- December 25th - No RE.
- January 1st - No RE.