

## **RE Council Meeting Minutes 11-20-2016**

**Attendees:** Mia Noren, Geri Knoebel, Collin Spooner, Carol Cowan, Callie Cone, Benita Terrell, Nicia Rae, Desiree Spielman, Stirling Crow

**Chalice Lighting and Opening Words:** Mia read a passage from a book.

### **Administrative Reports**

#### **Angela Herrera (Minister)**

- Angela will be taking a step back from attending the RE Council meetings. It was not the norm in the past for the minister to attend and Angela feels like we have hit our stride. The meetings are becoming difficult for her to attend and she feels like we've got things under control. We thanked her for helping us. Her door is always open when we need guidance and input.

#### **Geri Knoebel, Chair**

- In light of the upcoming holidays, there will not be a December meeting. Because we will not be meeting for about 2 months, be particularly mindful of the calendar of future dates as we will be ending our fall semester and will be beginning of the spring semester in January.
- The DRE job description has been modified to include UU Camp responsibilities. This job description gives us a greater understanding of the breath and depth of Mia responsibilities. This is attached at the bottom of these notes.
- Mia Noren, our DRE, will be receiving a raise effective December 1<sup>st</sup> in recognition of her many accomplishments.
- Mia and I worked on revising the *Childcare Manual*, which covers staff who works in the nursery, and childcare provided during Church-sponsored events and programs. The *Manual* incorporates policies and procedures contained in the *Teacher Training Manual*. (Personnel-related employment areas are covered in the Church's *Personnel Manual*.) This draft will be reviewed by RE Staff. Your feedback is welcomed. The *Manual* was sent as a separate attachment.
- Mia has made modifications to the La Amikoj Scholarship form. A student understood that funds could be provided to their parent, who would then make the payment. When this application form was approved, we decided that payment could only be made to the church sponsoring the event, or the UUA entity sponsoring the event and accepting payments. The form has been modified to reflect that.
- A couple of months ago, a draft of the Church's Child Protection Policy was reviewed by the Council. Since then the Healthy Community Committee and the Board have been refining the draft policy. The Board should soon finalize it.
- If we could look at the childcare manual as a group and offer feedback that would be great.

#### **Mia Noren, Director of Religious Education**

- Because mid-high youth expressed such enthusiasm for the pizza sermons, we planned one for December 11<sup>th</sup> (One of the recent pizza sermons focused on the topic of suicide

and one of the upcoming ones will focus on hot anger/cold anger). That was going to be the date of our RE Volunteer luncheon, and Angela and I have moved that to another Sunday in February. All volunteers from 2016 and new volunteers in 2017 will be invited to participate. There will be childcare. This luncheon won't be just sandwiches, and will require an RSVP. Since I'm doing this just once, I want to make it a really nice event.

- Roster of RE teachers for spring is almost full. We are in need of only 7 people for the teams. The greatest need is in the 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes.
- The OWL parent survey has gone out. I heard back from all of our OWL facilitators, and I have a tentative roster set up. I am awaiting the results of the survey to go ahead with planning the classes.
- Mia is working on creating the teaching teams for the OWL classes. We discussed some of the possible scheduling for the OWL classes.
- Our floaters sign-up is not full, and I'd like everyone, especially when talking to new folks, to try to remember to mention the 16 hour volunteer requirement for the year, and the floater sign-up.
- Kristen Kennedy indicated that she's interested in running next spring's Guest at Your Table program. I'm waiting to hear from Hannah, because I'd like her to have a partner. Once we've identified a partner, I'll meet with them to get them going.

#### **Colin Spooner, Youth Program Coordinator**

- We had 4 youth attend the Leadership Development Con, where they learned valuable skills for being leaders in our religious community.
- We are planning an overnight for New Years Eve, more info to come. (High school sponsoring for the mid schoolers).
- In light of the election, we spent last Sunday with Mid High and La Amikoj creating images and messages with chalk around our church last Sunday. This was successful for both the high schoolers and the middle school group.

#### **Chair Reports**

##### **Carol Cowan, Curriculum**

- Carol shared the upcoming curriculum with us. As a separate attachment, you will find Carol's report and curriculum for spring 2017-19
- Mia and Carol will meet on November 28th to discuss the upcoming curriculum, classes, and length of the summer session.
- Mia and Collin will also be putting some time into developing the youth curriculum.

##### **Callie Cone, OWL**

- We are getting plans in place for the upcoming OWL sessions starting in January 2017. Mia sent out emails to trained teachers (new and old) to find out who thinks they will be available. In addition, Mia and I met to map out the schedule for classes.
- At this point, we plan to have a parent informational meeting for all age groups after the 11:00 service on 12/18/16, and hope to identify someone to give a pulpit editorial prior to that date. OWL orientation for all classes will be 1/8/17. Elementary classes will continue weekly until 3/11/16, except for a break over President's Day Weekend.

- We developed a plan to shorten the calendar duration of the mid-high classes, by including two Saturday power sessions with optional overnights. This also accommodates more breaks in the schedule for other youth activities, such as a regional conference.

### **Stirling Crow, Recruitment**

I sent out two targeted emails for recruitment:

- Email sent to parents who have not volunteered yet requesting they consider being an assistant in the classroom.
- Email sent to existing teachers asking them to ask parents to sign up to be an assistant.

We still need 7 people in elementary classes (mostly in 4th and 5th grade classes) for the upcoming Spring semester. Mia would like to target specific parents first before we send out another email.

### **Desiree Spielman, Community Events**

- We don't have numbers for the Halloween dance but it was a success. We raised about \$250.
- We didn't have a picnic in November because it was on the same day as the Marigold parade. Plus there's a lot going on with the holidays.
- We will try to have a picnic in December (in the Memorial Hall) on December 4th. If the weather is bad Desiree will bring board games (and others can bring board games as well).
- NO picnic on January 8th.
- Mia and Desiree will get together to plan the Winter Pool Party (maybe in February or March).

### **Nicia Rae, UU Kids Camp**

- Fundraisers with sodas and chips during the picnics.
- They will start meeting and planning after the holidays.
- The camp will be at Sacramento.

### **Future Dates**

- December 4th (Sunday) - RE Picnic
- December 11<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) – Pizza sermon.
- December 18th (Sunday) – No RE Council meeting
- December 18<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) – OWL informational meeting for anyone interested
- December 25<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)- No RE; no childcare.
- January 1st (Sunday)- No RE; intergenerational service with childcare (just the nursery).
- January 8<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) – Teacher training with childcare (10:30)
- January 8<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) – OWL parent orientation (whenever we decide the class will start - maybe 12:30?)
- January 14 to 16 – High School Youth MLK retreat in Colorado.
- January 15<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) – RE first spring class
- January 15th (Sunday) - RE Council Meeting (12:15)
- January 22<sup>nd</sup> – First OWL Session
- February - We will have a teacher luncheon sometime this month?