

RE Council February 21, 2017 Minutes

Attendees: Geri Knoebel, Mia Noren, Carol Cowan, Stirling Crow

Future Dates

Next RE Council Meetings:

- Sunday, March 19
- Sunday, April 9

Other Events:

- Sunday, March 5 - Start Generosity Month including Read-to-me children book donation drive and collecting canned goods
- Sunday, March 12 - Last elementary OWL session, Kickoff for "Guests At Your Table" and goes until April 9th. Looking for a few volunteers.
- Sunday, March 19 - Discernment process for new Senior Minister, Youth lunch for fundraising (we might need an RE volunteer to assist with food)
- Sunday, March 31, April 1 & 2 - Bridging Youth Con in Ft. Collins, CO
- No April Pool Party
- Sunday, April 16 - Easter Canned Goods hunt; teacher holiday
- Sunday, April 23rd - Coming of Age Service
- Sunday, April 30th - Earth Day (We are waiting to hear more from Earth Web - a church group that deals with environment events and booths) / RE activities in the courtyard, OWL Facilitators Dinner (tentative)
- Sunday, May 7 - First Sunday RE Family Picnic (folks bring their own lunch), Congregational Meeting at 2 PM., Pizza Sermon for youth (after services)
- Sunday, May 14 - Last day of elementary RE
- Sunday, May 20 - RE Families and Volunteers Annual BBQ and Activities (from 5 to 8 PM)
- Sunday, May 21 - Mini-camp (rising 3rd graders to high school), bridging is also happening.
- Sunday, May 21 - dinner with Youth Advisors (tentative).
- Sunday, May 28 - (Memorial Day Weekend) Teacher Holiday
- Sunday, June 4 - Field Day
- Sunday, June 11 - Summer RE Begins, Worship in the Wilderness
- August 6th - First day of Fall RE

Topics

OWL

- OWL is going well for both K-1 and 4-6.
- We are getting a high school class together. Dates are being worked on. We have enough kids.
- Mia has sent Benita a request to do evaluations for the OWL classes.

- Mia will no longer do OWL interest surveys. We've had a number of people sign up - to the point where we had to say the class is full. Next year we might have two K-1 classes for OWL. One from Jan to March. Another from March to June?

RE Council Resource Manual:

- Briefly went over the RE Council Resource Manual.
- Geri would like us to add goals in the manual.

RE Council Reports

Geri Knoebel, Chair Report:

1. We reviewed important dates through June.
2. We will develop a covenant at our next meeting.
3. Last month, the Board approved the Child Protection Policies which included provisions regarding RE. The Council reviewed the Policies and found that the sexualized behavior provision only referred to behavior between an adult and a youth when in actuality it needs to prohibit to sexual behavior between youth as well. Geri will talk with the Healthy Community Committee and the Board to revise the policy.
4. Geri is the chair of the Search Committee.
 1. RE is well represented on this 7-person Committee: Ian Carrillo and Emma Elliott are life-long UUsers and James Probasco is a RE parent. Other Committee members are John Kwait, Tyler Mason, and Kristin Satterlee.
 2. We are developing instruments to enable the congregation can express its perspectives, dreams and needs in a new Senior Minister. The Committee is in the midst of refining the Congregation Survey, planning small group meetings, as well as Town Hall. At our March 19th meeting, the Council will be asked to provide input into the process. Angela is interested in being our Senior Minister.
 3. Calling a Senior Minister is one of the most important responsibilities of a Congregation. The Special Congregation meeting is to be held on May 7th. Our by-laws require a 30% quorum of our membership to call (about 240 persons) and an 80% approval of the Congregation.
 4. SAVE THE DATE for the special congregational meeting.
5. Mia and Geri worked on revising and updating the *RE Council Manual* and the *Teacher's Training Manual*. We are working with Paul to refine our evacuation and lockdown procedures. We are refining our RE Building and Playground maps.

Mia Noren, RE February DRE report

1. It's possible that we have enough youth to start a High School **OWL** class. I am working with Althea Atherton to get that organized to start, which would

- entail the participants agreeing on a day and time to meet (not Sunday morning).
2. **OWL** is running fairly smoothly. We've had a couple of drop-outs from the 7/8 class, and many people coming to me very late about going into the K/1 class. My plan for next year is to not run an interest survey- that seems to confuse people- but just simply make registrations available and start registering people for classes. Based on attendance at k1 (16 or 17 kids this time!), I think I'll plan for two classes to run successively. That class is eight weeks, and if I can get the teachers, people could choose which class to enroll in and then the class would be of a more manageable size.
 3. Our **Month of generosity** will begin first Sunday of March with a kick-off of the Read to Me book donations and also donations of canned goods, which we'll use in our can hunt on Easter. We won't have a formal forum for that, unless we ask for a pulpit announcement, but it will be in the Messenger, Broadsheet, and on Facebook. Jessica Dumm has volunteered to take on the GAYT program, and the kick-off for that will be March 12, and it will wrap up on April 9. Jessica won't be in town on the 12th, so I will speak to the congregation that day.
 4. Here's my current planning for the **summer** program. Basically there is a 6 week program that will start out with a reading around a theme, and then children, youth, and any adults will be invited to participate in a number of different activities. There will be a makerspace room, an art room, a quiet space for reading and/or writing, and the music program that Susan and I have been working on. There will be a Simpsons viewing & discussion room for youth who don't want to participate in any of the other activities. I'd also like to find some volunteers willing to lead games outside for the more active kids. I'll need adult volunteers for each room, but I also would like this program to be multigenerational. June 11, 18, & 25, July 9, 16, & 30. June 4 is Field Day, July 3 is a teacher holiday, and July 23 is the day most kids leave for camp, and will be chapel and teacher holiday for the younger grades.
 5. **Fall** will begin Aug 6 with a teacher training and then an RE Family picnic.
 6. **Buildings and Grounds**- Steven Phillips and I have met with the rep from the company we chose for our playground furniture, Exerplay. I've picked out the furniture, and we have worked the estimate out to be very close to our budget of \$3000. There will be two picnic tables and two benches. The person working on the Memorial Garden refurb has told me it's quite possible that we may inherit the table there, too, so the colors will be the same.
 7. Another **Buildings & Grounds** Issue- we have an ongoing battle with an intruder into the La Amikoj, Wesson, & Arnold rooms. The furniture in the Arnold Room now smells so badly that it will be discarded. I'm working on picking out more appropriate furniture, and there will be a church-wide fundraising effort to fund that. The church will also be replacing the flooring, painting where needed, and refurbishing the bathroom. This will not come out of RE funds. This project, as well as the installation of playground

furniture, will not start until after we have upgraded the fencing around the playground areas.

8. I'd like to propose a **project** possibility for the RE Council- a playground refurb. Almost our entire playground is seriously out of current regulations for safety and accessibility. The company rep supplied me with a resource book for grant writing for playgrounds, and I believe we could get one, due to our playground also being used by the Afterschool and ESL kids. Any discussion around working on it as the Council, or instead developing a special group to work on that?

Buildings and Ground Report (Meeting of 12/8/16 with Steve Phillips)

- Steve will contact Doug at ANOVA and arrange for a meeting for the three of us. This is the local company that has the commercial picnic tables & benches. My hope is to have everything installed by April 2017.
- Steve has spoken with Randy at ARC (our neighbor) and gotten approval for replacement of fencing. Fencing on the wall around the La Amikoj courtyard will be heightened. Fencing along the east and south areas of the grassy field will be 8 foot, and will be installed in such a way that there is not easy access to either the grassy field or the ARC building in that area. In addition, the rear gate south of the south garden area will be improved. The posts will be replaced, the gauge of the fencing will be increased, and the locking mechanisms will be replaced.
- Once fencing is replaced, we will be able to unlock the gate to the area behind the west RE building, and have a proper fire escape access. Future plans also have us replacing the wood slats on the fence behind Memorial Hall, which are not secure.
- Erosion control around the steps and fire hydrant were addressed and will be a later project. Steve will work on installing a proper gravel pathway from the south overflow parking lot to the gate, and having cement steps and a proper handrail installed. This is a later project.
- There is a sump pump in the playground that is connected to the sewer system on Cherokee Road, behind the playground. It was originally installed to be able to pump storm water out of the playground area. It hasn't worked in many years and was forgotten about, but will be brought back in to working order.

Colin Spooner, Youth Program Coordinator

La Amikoj:

- Have been meeting and having discussions around TED Talks and Social Issues and how they relate to our development as Unitarian Universalists.
- Attended the MLK Con in Denver.
- Bridging Seniors are about to begin with the Ministerial Team about Bridging Sunday and how that will be incorporated into the service.

- Upcoming:
 - Deciding upon a curriculum for the La Amikoj class next year. I am leaning towards a poetry based curriculum that the youth have found interest in. I am exploring other possibilities as well but currently am leaning strongly towards this plan.
 - Will be creating a social justice project to give back to our community in a positive way.

Mid High:

- Have been learning about Social Justice and its relation to UU History and values.
- Have been deciding to on a social justice issue to focus on.
- Upcoming:
 - In the next month the mid high will be brainstorming and creating a social justice service project based on the learning they have had in class throughout the year, and this will be the culmination of that curriculum.

Desiree Spielman, Community Events

Here is my report:

- Community Connections
- Volunteer Recognition: look into bouncy house/slide and music for the BBQ
- No picnic or pool party until after OWL is over.
- Picnics will restart April 2nd.
- No Picnic on July 2nd due to 4th of July weekend
- Hope to have Pool Party at Montgomery Pool either July 9th or 16th depending on availability.
- Plan to have another indoor Fall Pool Party.
- I am looking into the licensing needed for movie nights this summer on the Wesson Lawn.
- Youth Adviser Dinner or Lunch (May 24th/May 21st/June 11th) Date still to be determined
- Halloween Party: Friday, Oct. 20th (Mid High really wants to do a Haunted House)

Callie Cone, OWL Lead

- I can report that the K-1, 4-5, and 7-8 grade OWL classes are moving along nicely. In K-1 there are 15, in 4-5 there are 9, and in 7-8 there are 14 (previously 15 but one missed several classes and was advised to take the class next year rather than try to start up again this year).

- There are 14 youth in the mid high. Looks like high school OWL is not going to start now but there is still discussion about getting a class going in the future. Mia may have more to add. Hope the meeting goes well

Nicia Rae, UU Kids Camp

- Camp preparation has begun for 2017! The queens and RE staff are deciding who the core team will be. Planning for pulpit editorials is also underway. Our first editorial is scheduled for February 19th, most likely with a corresponding bake sale. The second editorial will be either March 26 or May 28. More info may be available by the time we meet, so I will keep everyone posted.

Carol Cowan and Susan Peck, Curriculum Reports

- Susan Peck met with Mia Noren and Carol Cowan a month before Christmas, to talk about how we might integrate music into the RE curriculum on a more regular basis. We came up with two ideas that would require a rotating roster of dedicated volunteers, scheduled via online Sign-Up Genius. I would work out a list of songs, coordinating with the RE curriculum planners, so you wouldn't have to choose songs. We want to give our kids a solid familiar repertoire of UU music to sing.
- In order to make this work, we would need a committed group of volunteers willing to fill weekly music slots in rotation. It would be great to implement both ideas listed below, but that will depend on volunteer turn-out. We may start with just one of the plans, and expand as the program gets established. The more volunteers we get, the lighter the individual load! The weekly slots would probably be 15-20 minutes each. Please note that folks singing in choir and band would need to work around the choir schedule.
- Let me know if this is something you'd be interested in; once we know we have enough folks to make this work, Mia, Carol, and I can solidify the plans. Also, let me know who else I should contact for our volunteer list, especially musical folks who are already active in the RE program. All volunteers working with children need background checks.

Action Items

- Benita - Question about evaluations for OWL and Fall?
- Geri - Ask council members if they can come on Sunday, April 9th for RE Council meeting.
- Geri - Look at and agree to modify child protection policy.
- Mia - Request volunteers for youth lunch on March 19th.
- Stirling: Create poster for volunteering in RE. We have many opportunities for cooperating RE program. Teach on a teacher team, help on playground, floater, etc... Be careful it doesn't say "Just Parents"