

RE Council Minutes 5-21-17

Attendees: Mia Noren, Callie Cone, Carol Cowan, Stirling Crow, Desiree Spielman, Colin Spooner, Nicia Rae, Benita Terrell

Administrative Agenda

Mia Noren, RE DRE Report

1. Guest at Your Table wrapped up last month, however, due to illness, we didn't get a final count of donations until this month. Total was over \$1,500! I'm still trying to straighten out a little discrepancy= in reports, so I don't have an exact figure. Thank you to Jessica Dumm for heading up this year's GAYT team!
2. I heard that the Coming of Age service went well. I was unable to participate, due to illness.
3. Had a lunch for Youth Advisers on Sunday, April 30th, which was attended by most, and we had a good time. There was discussion regarding youth groups and how to continue to improve them.
4. I met with Jo Anne Roake of Human.Kind, and we discussed the summer program I am writing for elementary children. I am hoping that the diversity group will be able to help us out with a couple of volunteer teachers for summer sessions.
5. I attended a workshop given by the Children's Grief Center, on Supporting Grieving Students. Alana also attended.
6. Sustainability Fair was another success. We learned a couple of lessons from this one, mainly concerning volunteers.
7. I received my Renaissance Pin, which signifies that I've completed 75 hours of Renaissance Module trainings, a milestone. I am nowhere near done yet, however! (When Mia finishes all this we need to have a party!)
8. We had a fantastic picnic/BBQ yesterday. We had 103 people!! The band (Wagogo) was great!!
9. On the Sunday of our Council meeting, Bridging will take place during the services, with three graduating youth: Nazan Crosbie, Amara Tankersley, and Alex Long. Since we don't have any seniors this coming year Mia would like to have folks review the program. There are a few folks interested in being on that group.

Mia Noren/Carol Cowan, Curriculum

Curriculum Report:

- There will be two elementary classes, split Pre-k to 2nd and 3rd to 5th grade.
- The curriculum is an original 6 week program called Different Together.
- Our summer classes will be six sessions- see calendar handout
- Mid-Hi and High School youth are welcome to participate UU curriculum which uses episodes of The Simpsons
- Susan Peck is running a multi-generational music offering called, "Protest Songs, Then and Now" which is open to youth.
- Note that it is likely we will not have Children's Chapel in June, July or August.

Colin Spooner, Youth Program Coordinator

- The "Coming of Age" service went very well. We will do it next year (of course).
- Trying to wrap up a service project with the mid-High. They really want to go to Roadrunner but it's challenging finding a time (that isn't Sunday).
- Curriculum for summer will begin (Simpson's curriculum!).
- We'd like to find a curriculum (for this coming Fall) that can bolster = our La Amikoj group to help build the program so that it is more than a social gathering.
- Grill Nights - We will be doing these Wednesday nights. This will be more of a social hour to keep the group in touch over the summer. = This is also meant to be a transitioning for the graduated Seniors, but we may need to review this.
- Young Adult Group is also having a BBQ to welcome them in.

Desiree, Community Events and Update on Camping:

- We got the pool party scheduled! June 25th - 5 to 7 at Montgomery
- We will keep on having the Summer Picnics on the 1st Sunday of the month (including June 4th, July 2nd, and August 6th). These are low-key events.

Nicia Rae, UU Kids Camp

- Mini-camp happened today. It went well today. We made dino poo.
- We will have another pulpit editorial next week.
- Silent Auction on June 3rd. We don't know if Sadie's will be donating food. If not we can provide the taco supplies.
- Still working on the activities for the camp (like brown bag skits);
- We have 31 kids registered so far. Registration will close mid to late June.
- Calle is considering offering medical care for the camp.
- Nicia shared the camp vision and values with us.

Info and Notes from Camp Meeting:

Agenda:

- Agree on mission statement make any tweaks now and finalize
- Develop specific goals based on mission - 4-5 goals
- Identify Resources available to us
- SWOT Strategic Planning - (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
- Determine how to maximize positives, minimize negatives to achieve goals, using resources on hand.
- In each goal category, develop a plan

Minutes:

- Camp Mission/Vision
- UU Kids Camp Mission/Vision
- The UU Kids Camp is an intentional UU community for rising 3rd-12th grade children and youth along with adult camp counselors that emphasizes safety, spirituality, and intergenerational bonding. Campers learn how to relate to others, how to be in community based on UU principles and values, and how to find and create sacred space. Camp fosters a sense of fun as a spiritual practice.

Camp Goals (shoot for 4-5 based on mission)

- Community: Teaching/Learning how to be in Covenantal community
- Cultivating Intergenerational Connections
- Explore Spirituality:
 - Objectives: Create Sacred Space, Appreciate Nature,
 - Activities: Vespers, Hikes, Circle Time
- Safety: Ensure Safety of all participants
- Fun - Fostering Fun as a spiritual practice
- UU values and principles - Living Our Principles Day to Day

Resources Available: Community of volunteers; Camp Facilities; RE Dept. Tuition Money; Tuition Assistance Fund; Congregation; SCCC Staff

SWOT Strategic Planning - (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats=)

- Strengths (realized positive):
 - Experienced Volunteers (not too many new people at once)
 - Established program with many kinks worked out
 - Natural beauty of the space
 - Having a functional Fundraising Team
- Weaknesses (realized negative):
 - Distance of facility
 - Cost of facility/transportation
 - Financial: High Camper to Counselor ratio
 - Inability to accommodate special needs campers
 - Low elementary attendance
 - High volunteer commitment required
- Opportunities (potential positive):
 - Expansion to include other congregations in NM
 - Fun SCCC programming (horses, high ropes course, etc..)
- Threats (potential negative): Woodland creatures/injury; Insufficient Funds; Bus accident/breakdown; Spiritual Damage/Tragedy; Apathy; Burnout

Upcoming Dates

Summer 2017 Class Dates

May 28 fallow week for RE

June 2017

- June 4 –Field Day
- June 11 – Start in Sanctuary/
Summer Class #1
- June 18 - Summer Class #2

- June 25 – Children’s
Chapel/Summer Class #3

July 2017

- July 2 – Teacher Holiday

- July 9 – Start in Sanctuary/Summer Class #4
- July 16 - Summer Class #5
- July 23- Teacher Holiday (Camp Sunday)
- July 30 – Children’s Chapel/ Summer Class #6

August 2017

- Aug. 6 – Fall Teacher Team Training- no classes
- Aug. 13 – Start in Sanctuary (Back to School Sunday) Fall Class #1
- Aug. 20 – Fall Class #2
- Aug. 27- Fall Class #3



RE Council Meeting Dates

- June 18th
- July 16th
- August 20th
- September 17th
- October 15th
- November 19th
- December 17th
- January 2018 no meeting



Future Dates

- Sunday, May 28 - (Memorial Day Weekend) Teacher Holiday- need floaters!
- Sunday, May 28- Children’s Chapel with Rev. Christine Robinson
- Saturday, June 3 - Taco Night - Silent Auction, Etc...
- Sunday, June 4 - Field Day- need volunteers!
- Sunday, June 4 - Summer Picnic
- Saturday, June 9 - Overnight for the Gay Pride Parade
- Sunday, June 10 - Gay Pride Parade
- Sunday, June 11 - Summer RE Begins, Worship in the Wilderness
- Sunday, June 25 - RE Pool Party, 5-7 at Montgomery Pool
- Sunday, July 2 - Teacher Holiday
- Sunday, July 2 - Summer Picnic
- Monday, July 3 - Isotopes All-faiths day (This is an event for any and all churches)
- Sunday, July 23 to 28 - Children & Youth leave for UU Kid’s Camp
- Sunday, August 6th - Teacher training, first day of Youth RE
- Sunday, August 6th - Summer Picnic
- August 13th - First day elementary classes start in Sanctuary with Teacher Litany delivered by Angela
- Late August / Early November ? - Discuss a time/month for hosting a RE Council Retreat

