RE Council Minutes
February 18, 2018

Attendees: Geri Knoebel, Carol Cowan, Desiree Spielman, Mia Noren, Alymay Atherton

Opening Words - Carol

Introduced Alymay Atherton as our new Youth Programs Coordinator. She discussed current activities including reaching out to other UU Youth Programs.

Administrative Agenda:
• Approved December 2017 Council minutes.

• RE Council Meeting Dates
  • March 18, 2018
  • April 15, 2018
  • May 20, 2018
  • June 17, 2018
  • July 22, 2018
  • August 19, 2018
  • September 16, 2018
  • October 21, 2018
  • November 18, 2018
  • December 16, 2018
  • January 20, 2019-no mt

Chair Report – Geri
• Discussed recruiting new Council members including the newly created Social Justice portfolio and the alignment of Council portfolios.
• Reported that the Congregation approved for the first time funding ($2,500) for UU Kids Camp in the Church’s 2018 budget. The $2500 will be used to cover some of the costs for the parent volunteers thereby reducing the fees for children to attend camp from $540 last year to $495 this year.

• Last Sunday, Mia joined Angela in the minister-led puppet show to engage children with pastoral messages.

Mia Noren, DRE Report
1. Church staffs involved in Religious Education for children, youth, and adults were invited to a multi-denominational gathering of religious educators on Monday, Feb. 5 at the First Congregational United Church of Christ. The purpose is to make connections and talk about collaborations. Attending from First Unitarian were Dan Lillie, Mia Noren, Alymay Atherton, Alana Rodriguez, and Brie-Anne Stout. In attendance were 8 other religious professionals from St. Mark’s Episcopal, St Chad’s Episcopal, ABQ Mennonite, First Presbyterian, St Michael’s Episcopal, First Congregational United Church of Christ, and All Saints Lutheran. We hope to continue meeting for mutual support and the possibility of collaboration between communities. We will continue to add other interested religious educators. We are already collaborating with UCC on our H.S. OWL offering this year.

2. K1-1, 4-5, and 10-12 OWL classes are underway.

3. Coming of Age began January 21 with six youth and Meghan Shattuck, Meara Christopher, and Lia Atherton. There will be ministerial involvement from both Dan and Angela in this year’s COA around UU History, UU Theology, and homily help.

4. Had my annual review with Angela, and this begins my 4th year of service as your DRE. Some important points came out of that meeting.
   - Angela would like us to begin to add more people to the RE Council. To keep it fresh, and invite new eyes
   - To not seem as though the same people are making all of the decisions
   - To see yourselves as leadership developers. Like the Board, you can take someone under your wing, and then transition to position to that person

A. She suggested that all staff and Council members should be engaging in informal feedback with teachers and parents. It’s not the same as a formal survey, and oftentimes you can learn things in conversation that you wouldn’t learn in a survey, so let’s all try to do this and report back on what we learn.

Nicia Rae, UU Kids Camp Liaison

- Fundraising for camp is now underway. The first planning meeting was held on January 14th. Alison Grady, Desiree Spielman, Alana Rodriguez, Mia Noren and I attended. We are currently looking for more volunteers to help.

- We had a Valentine's dinner on Friday (2/9) that turned out beautifully. Olive Garden donated most of the food and there was live music. Alana was in charge of the planning and reported that we made $500! The next fundraiser will be March 11th. We are going to be selling sandwich lunches after church (for all members, but especially OWL families).

Discussion: Transition to thematic ministry –
We will be transitioning to Thematic Ministry in September. This approach identifies a monthly theme that the entire church will focus on. RE programming would be based on interest groups rather than grades.

We may be using the UU program Soul Matters [https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/](https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/) Angela will be making the final determination soon. For Soul Matters, click on “Our Monthly Packets” to get
an idea of the resources that will be available to Religious Education. Katie Covey, who has written many popular Tapestry of Faith and other UU curricula, is the Soul Matters RE Resources Coordinator. We will be running this, as an experiment, in June and July.

A team was identified to help Mia with visioning how this will affect all the aspects of our programming including youth and how to go about planning our summer. The Team includes Mia Noren, Geri Knoebel, Carol Cowan, Desiree Spielman, Kathy Knight, Brie-Anne Stout.

Future Dates
- Saturday, March 10th, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm- Roadrunner youth service
- Saturday, March 10th – Social Justice Fundraiser (starts at 4PM)
- Sunday, March 18th – Youth Chalice Lighting begins, RE Council Meeting
- Sunday, March 18th – April 8th – Guest at Your Table
- Sunday, April 4th – April 25th – Food can collection
- Sunday, April 8th – Angela Pizza Sermon
- Saturday, April 14th, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm- Roadrunner youth service
- Sunday, April 15th – RE Council Meeting
- Sunday, April 29th - Coming of Age Service
- Saturday, May 5th – RE BBQ
- Sunday, May 6th – Sustainability Fair
- Sunday, May 13th – Last day of RE classes
- Sunday, May 20th – Mini-camp Day, RE Council Meeting
- Sunday, June 3rd – Field Day
- Sunday, July 22 to 27th – UU Kids Camp

Geri Knoebel, Chair Report

1. Mia will be chairing Sunday’s meeting as I will be in Tucson for my sister JoAnne’s memorial service.
2. Mia and I worked on revising the Council portfolios taking into consideration recent Council discussions reflecting on our experience utilizing them. These definitions are living documents to be modified as experience warrants.
3. We folded those revised portfolios into Orientation Materials for prospective Council members. (attached to the transmittal email). The document also included excerpts from the RE Council Resource Manual and the 2017 Annual Reports from Mia as DRE and myself on behalf of the Council.
4. Saturday’s Social Justice Fundraiser was a great success. The event was well-attended, varied activities were offered, great food, new faces as volunteers, and strong sense of community. The RE Foyer was filled with great energy – protest signs were being painted, protest songs sung, and exhibits from numerous Church social justice organizations were provided.
RE Council Portfolios
February 2017

Council Positions

Chair
Convenes group and facilitates meetings for maximum effectiveness and team spirit. Works closely with DRE to form agenda and carries agenda items forward as needed throughout the year. The Chair stays in touch with Council members about their portfolios and sends written reports out along with agenda at least three days before the monthly meeting. The Chair prepares the RE Council Annual Report for the Church’s January Annual Report.

Secretary
The Secretary of the Council keeps minutes, documenting the decisions of the Council. The minutes should contain highlighted action items with name of person accountable for the action. Minutes are sent to council members within 3 days of the meeting at which the minutes were taken.

Program Positions

Community Connections Lead
Works with RE staff to plan and coordinate special events with a focus on community building. Recruits volunteer assistance as needed. These events may include: RE Parent lunches, Family Barbeque, Halloween Party, Easter Can Hunt, pool party, playground cleanup day, and movies nights.

Curriculum Team Lead
Understands RE’s overall curriculum map and communicates with teachers to ensure classes are aligned with the map. DRE and Curriculum Team Lead presents major curriculum mapping changes to the RE Council. Is a resource for teacher teams. Moves toward a model in which there is room for teacher creativity.

OWL Portfolio
OWL Lead. Works with the DRE, RE Staff, and OWL facilitators as needed to help with overall organization of OWL programming. Will help with recruitment and organization for OWL facilitator training.

Program Evaluation Lead
Consulting with DRE utilizes a range of methods including surveys, meetings, informal conversations to conduct an on-going RE program evaluation. The Program Evaluation Lead uses that information to prepare a report, which the RE Council and DRE, utilize to build on strengths and troubleshoot weaknesses in the RE program.

Recruitment Coordinator
Employs various methods to communicate about volunteering in RE programming. Works with DRE and RE staff to come up with appropriate methods and reports the results to the RE Council.

Social Justice (new portfolio)
Works with the Church’s Social Justice Coordinator to find ways for children and their families to be
able to participate in Social Justice activities with the church in general, and/or in other ways as their own group.

**UU Kids Camp Liaison**

The Liaison is involved in the camp planning process and serves as a liaison between the RE Council and the Camp Planning Team.