RE Council Minutes  
November 18, 2018

Opening Words - Benita

Administrative Agenda
- Approve November 18th minutes
- Chair Report – Geri
- Staff Reports – Mia, Alymay
- Portfolio Reports – Benita, Carol, Callie, Desiree, Nicia

Discussion
1. Discussion about RE attendance
2. Program Evaluation Portfolio discussion
3. Recruiting Council member – Recruitment Portfolio
4. Council Sunday support for Mia – confirming coverage
5. RE Council volunteer appreciation – Amanda Harper

Future Dates

November 2018
- Sunday, November 18th - REC Meeting 12:30 P; Interfaith Thanksgiving Music Service, 3:00 PM
- Sunday, November 25th - Teacher holiday, Children's chapel with Jane
- Friday, November 30, “Charlie Brown” movie night 6:00

December 2018
- Sunday, December 2nd – RE Council help 9:30 Desiree, 11:00 Eric; Silent Auction/ Holiday gifts for Camp
- Saturday, December 8th- Youth Roadrunner work day 11-2
- Sunday, December 9th, RE Council help 9:30 Desiree, 11:00 Benita; Animal Advocates craft sale
- Friday, December 14, Potluck Theology, Memorial Hall, 6:00 -8:00
- Sunday, December 16th - REC meeting
- Sunday, December 23rd- Teacher Holiday with Critter Club activity, Children's chapel
- Monday, December 24th- Christmas Eve Pageant service (5:00?)
- Sunday, December 30th- No RE- Full Intergenerational service

January 2019
- Sunday, January 6th – RE Teacher training 10:30-12:00, teacher holiday with Critter Club activity
- Saturday, January 12th, Youth Roadrunner work day 11-2
- Sunday, January 13th –OWL parent orientation for mid-high
- January 19-21- MLK Con, youth, Denver
- Sunday, January 20th – no RE Council meeting; OWL orientation for elementary, Mid High OWL begins
- Sunday, January 27, Children’s Chapel, Elementary OWL begins
February 2019

- Friday Feb 1-Sat Feb 2, NM Cluster mid-high youth overnight, Santa Fe

Geri Knoebel, Chair
November 2018

Mia’s report below identifies a number of areas to be discussed by the Council. We want to understand the drop in RE registrations and attendance and are asking for assistance from the Council. As you know, we are also going to talk about program evaluation as a carryover from last month’s agenda.

Also, we will be discussing the change in thematic ministry materials from Touchstone to Soul Matters that is being considered. Mia is also considering having a ‘Family Night’ (my words) in which multiple events would be held on one night (movie night, youth game night, homework night, etc).

Mia Noren, DRE Report
November 2018

1. I spent the first five days of November attending the annual Liberal Religious Educators Association’s (LREDA) Fall Conference in Houston, TX. I completed the Ministry with Youth Renaissance Module.

2. I’m working with Angela and Alana to identify why there has been a drop in RE registrations and attendance this year. We are hoping that the RE Council can make calls to families we’ve identified as having registered last year and not returned this year. The idea is that people would be more candid with church members and may be able to share more that they might feel uncomfortable sharing with a staff person.

Fewer people and families have been registering and/or attending RE this year, why? Mia handed out a chart showing 2017-2018 registration and attendance. In 2017 we had 90 registered by Oct, and 208 for the year. This year we have 99 registered so far, but low attendance compared with last year.

There have been some changes in schedule, curriculum, etc, but even accounting for this, there has been a consistent drop in attendance. A similar pattern has been happening in the sanctuary; service attendance has also been down. Interestingly, this is happening despite the fact that our membership is still growing and stewardship goals are still being met “like crazy”. So Angela is wondering what is going on. The sanctuary doesn’t make people sign in, but we (RE) do. So it might be easier to assess on the RE side.

To start this process, we (Angela and Mia) made a list of people and families who registered last year and who didn’t return this year. Then, we removed people from the list who moved, etc.
We want to have church members (not staff) call folks on the list to try to find out what is going on. We want to get feedback such as, “the mid-high room too loud”, etc. This provides us an opportunity to provide pastoral care, if needed. Ask if there anything they would like to share with us. Is there anything going on that we need to be aware of? Ask them open-ended questions, and let them respond.

Some people may just have stopped coming b/c they are busy, etc. But some people may be in need of help. Also, other things to consider are opportunities they might not know about such as Owl, if the child has gotten to that age. Note, the ages for Owl are:

1. Owl classes: K-1, 4-5, and 7-8.
2. Coming of age is for 8th and 9th graders. Registration for this is soon. (9th grade is new for this)

Another thing to note, youth are allowed to hang out (outside of classroom), as long as they are mindful of safe church and are in places where they can be seen. This is fine, but they might not know that. (so if a youth doesn’t want to attend a program but still wants to be present at church this could be helpful)

Angela would like this to wrap up this project ASAP before Xmas.

3. I am working to revise the Youth Programs Coordinator job description. It’s come to my attention that our YPC is overwhelmed with trying to do all that is currently required in 10 hours per week. Administrative tasks will be re-assigned to Alana, and I’ll be taking on some items. Some re-visioning of our youth programming is also in order, and I’ll address that more in our meeting.

Youth coordinator is overwhelmed working only10 hours a week. Alymay and Mia are working on the job description. All Admin tasks will go to Alana. It is possible this will work out or might be looking for a new youth advisor next year.

Also trying to get youth advisors to meet as a group with an established regular meeting. For youth, advisors are more like mentors than teachers. But if they don’t meet, hard to be effective mentors.

Board will be recommending that increase the hourly rate for the Youth Advisor position, closer to “fair compensation” guidelines, from UUA. It will still be 10 hours a week. Mia works 40-50 but she’s full time salaried level. (which means you work until job done)

Mia’s credentialing is on track for a review with credentialing committee in May.

4. Some challenges have come up with the Touchstones thematic ministry materials, and we are considering a move to Soul Matters. I can talk more about this in our meeting.

The Curriculum Team can handle the switch. Looking to switch to Soul Matters once the current Touchstones subscription is over. Soul Matters is themed based as well, with a LOT of resources.
5. I’d like to get Council feedback on an idea- we currently have an R.E. movie night, and there is a lot of energy behind having a youth gaming night. I’m running Potluck Theology on another evening. There is also a request for a homework night for youth to be able to work on homework together. I am considering moving all of these events to the same night, continue to offer child care, and invite everyone to potluck before going to their preferred activities. Let’s discuss!

Summary: Discussion regarding combining all evening activities like Movie night, games, homework, Potluck Theology. Decided Potluck Theology will remain separate and take place first Friday of the month, all other activities can happen under the umbrella of “RE Family Night”.

Potluck Theology met Friday night, 11/9, and though the turnout was small (7 adults and a youth), we had a great discussion on our theme, Gratitude. Again, none of the participants had ever been able to participate in a Theology on Tap session.

6. I’m continuing to post on the RE Connections blog weekly, but have not received much in the way of feedback.

   Blog: not sure people know that they can leave feedback, Mia has been updating the blog. Notifications are going out. (user has to set up notifications manually)

7. OWL registration is underway. Two 4-5 and one youth registered so far.

8. I discovered that Sign-Up Genius has the capability to text people reminders in addition to email. We’ll be emailing something out soon that will give people a choice how they’d like to be notified. This will include option for texts, etc.

Youth news

- Youth met with Angela on 11/11 and there was good conversation. Some action items that came up will be pursued by the YAC, and we will also continue to work to put a youth member on the Church’s Board.

  YAC is going to work on putting youth member on the board. Gwen (board president) and Meghan will work together on this. The Congregation elects members to the Board. A youth was the hall monitor today.

- I am working with people from our cluster to organize a mid-high overnight in Santa Fe. The date is Friday and Saturday, February 1 & 2. A few high school youth will be asked to work at organizing the program and theme. Current planning team is Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, and Durango, CO. We will be sending information to all NM and southern CO churches.

  One-night event. All of the mid-high overnights are for single night. This is an intro to what a “youth con” is like which starts for high school kids. Invites will go out to all the churches in our cluster, about 15 churches. We’re hoping that since it is just a single overnight that parents will bring their kids, and stay night in Santa Fe.
Normally if there is a “con” we don’t have the kids also do Owl. So Feb 3 should be rescheduled.

- I met with Meghan and Meara for Coming of Age (COA). Planning is underway for the new session. It will begin in January and take place 9:30-10:45 most Sundays, and the COA ceremony will be Sunday, April 28.

Micia: There will be a bake sale and pulpit editorial same day on April 28. Who should do pulpit editorial this time? Dimitri again? Mia, not really up to me.

Mia: I would like to add another ceremony of recognition for 5th graders who are going to the youth classes. Like coming of age, but different. Family will be involved in this, based on transition from child to youth. I don’t know if I can do it this year, but definitely by next year. We need more ceremonies for recognitions, transitions. It is an achievement and something that anchors you. It can be helpful to parents too, and a way to share that experience together in a less jarring way.

+++++

Callie Cone, OWL

Sunday’s that will have Owl sessions of one kind or another are 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/24, 3/3, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7, and 4/14.

Also to update my portfolio: We have full teacher teams for all classes. Mid high is planning 3 Saturday extended sessions to help get through all the curriculum before Easter. Mia will start sending out registration info to parents and guardians of the appropriate age groups after Thanksgiving. Owl classes will start the weekend of 1/26-1/27, after orientation sessions on 1/13 and 1/20.

+++++

Nicia Rae, UU Kids Camp

The O’Neill’s fundraiser was a smashing success! We had so many supporters that there were people waiting to be seated and we expect a profit of at least a few hundred dollars. Made $185 at bake sale. The person coordinating with Alana no longer works there, so having to work more to get the information and $$ from O’Neil’s. Alana is following up on this.

The Silent Auction is coming together nicely. We may still need a couple more volunteers and most of the donation collection is complete. More details to follow!

Silent auction had a hiccup; intended to reserve the social hall, but got assigned memorial hall instead. Apparently, no policy for RE fund raising in the Social Hall. Geri will follow up with this by reviewing this policy and propose changes to the board (only they can change it). In the meantime, can be overcome with good publicity. Have it in order of service and pulpit announcement.

Announcements have been put other places: Order of Service, pulpit announcements, Facebook, Ebroadsheet, etc. Alana will do posters. Linda will help as well.
Discussion of carols and campsongs, soulsingers and CITs. Both could participate.

Desiree will be sending out thank you cards. Needs names and addresses.

Auction items: massage from Thai; time share; tickets to rock climbing; a couple of $10 passes to barber shop quartet; baby-sitting voucher; golf passes; 3-4 book baskets; want ½ dozen other baskets for art, etc; quilt; foot-massager ($20); river-of-lights tickets; maybe a jacket; Angela will cook a nice dinner people at her home ($100 per person, no bidding, not sure if limit to # of people); rainbow riders- 2 passes from them, $100 each; various baked goods; want to get O’Neils gift cards, waiting to hear back from Starbucks and other restaurants; Chuckie’s jewelry; beaded artwork from Cecil; Bev is coming as a vendor, giving 40%, does silver jewelry

Next events: January 27th fund raiser selling lunches before Annual Meeting (soup, salad bread); Valentines event. Feb. 15, 2019 Need to make reservation now. Social Hall renovations don’t start till April.

++++++++++++++

Carol Cowan, Curriculum Lead

10/10/18 Curriculum REPORT- Plan for November Theme: Gratitude
PK-1 Lead: Desiree 2-3 Lead: Carol 4-5 Chase & Blake

Note: Curriculum committee needs to note which lessons each person (Chase, Blake, Kathy) will prepare for the month. Alana needs this information for her weekly planning. Lessons need to be handed in by Wed to be used on Sunday so that the RE Staff can prepare the materials.

**THEME- NOVEMBER: GRATITUDE**- Thanksgiving and gratitude are not the same, but they are related. As Robert Emmons observes, “The word ‘thanksgiving’ literally means, giving of thanks. Thanksgiving is an action word. Gratitude requires action. Gratitude is a feeling for which we are encouraged to react by giving thanks.

Nov 4- 60 minutes (Morning Sing at 9:15/10:45)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PK-1</th>
<th>The Awesome book of Thanks</th>
<th>Making a classroom gratitude tree that they can add to all month. Leaves collage in chapel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>The Gratitude Tree</td>
<td>Add leaves to the Gratitude Tree in the RE Foyer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Introduction to gratitude</td>
<td>“What if we didn’t have this?” 6.2 in resources” Leaves collage in chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chase prepared lesson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nov 11-45 minutes  start in Sanctuary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PK-1</th>
<th>Bear Says Thanks</th>
<th>Retell the story with puppets.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>Gratitude- Rebirth of the Sun LWGU #11</td>
<td>Leaves collage in chapel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THEME- NOVEMBER: GRATITUDE- Thanksgiving and gratitude are not the same, but they are related. As Robert Emmons observes, “The word ‘thanksgiving’ literally means, giving of thanks. Thanksgiving is an action word. Gratitude requires action. Gratitude is a feeling for which we are encouraged to react by giving thanks.
Mia, Carol, Desiree, Chase, Blake, and Alana met on October 10 to plan November. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 15 at 6:30 in the RE building.

**Group Discussion on Gratitude topic**
- Carol prepared a chart for Nov lessons topics in Google Docs.
- We can use lessons prepared by another member of the team. Simply modify the lesson as needed to fit your age group. Team members should spend about one to two hours to plan the lesson. Keep it simple. We do not want anyone to burn out doing this!
- Think about how each lesson relates to UU Sources and Principles.
- Please continue to fill in the chart in Google Docs keeping track of sources and principles that relate to the lessons.
- The RE Staff will make a gratitude tree on the Chapel bulletin board. The children in all classes will add leaves of gratitude each week during November. Desiree has a leaf cutter and will supply leaves for this project.