

UUCF Religious Education Report March 8th 2021 Board Meeting

Religious Education Overview:

Throughout February, R.E. continued to meet on Zoom with about 5-7 children participating each week. As of March 6th, R.E. will now be meeting in person on Sunday mornings. On March 6th we had 7 children in attendance in person.

General Update:

Leading up to March 6th, the R.E. teachers reached out to the families to let them know about in-person R.E. as well as get their feedback regarding attendance. Everyone (including the teachers) seemed very excited about returning.

General Plan for Youth & Teens:

After the last R.E. Committee meeting in February and in light of my departure, the R.E. Committee decided to put a hold on trying to implement a version of Coming of Age. As of right now, the plan is to have a simple, easy to replicate offering for youth on Sundays. This past Sunday, I was with the youth, but moving forward R.E. will either need a staff or volunteers to work with this group.

Moving Forward:

With my last day approaching at the beginning of April, I have been making preparations for the R.E. program. Some preparations in progress include:

- Purchasing a stock of snacks for R.E.
- Preparing R.E. sign in sheets and making sure the teachers have the electronic file
- Updating the R.E. Registration forms
- Compiling and organizing the physical documents (i.e. volunteer forms, LiveScan forms, etc)
- Outlining a basic structure for the youth Sunday programming
- Cleaning up the DRE email address
- Organizing the DRE google drive and electronic files
- Organizing the R.E. mailchimp account and making sure the R.E. staff has the login information
- Ensuring that a structural plan is in place for the current teachers (asking the R,E, committee for clarity on this topic so the teacher know what to expect)
- And more

Additionally, as the board, R.E. committee, and congregation move forward with visioning and deciding on the future of the R.E. program, especially as we now move into an in-person setting once again, UUCF may recognize an increasing need for more teachers, staff or consistent volunteers in R.E. We currently have two teachers, but as the number of children in attendance grows, and as the variety of ages of those children grows, the children will more and more be needing to separate into appropriate age groups. Multiage groups are also possible, but

especially if the goal is to renew peer group bonding, those age groups will need to have opportunities to gather separately.

Once again, my hope for the R.E. program is that it is able to grow and flourish. Please let me know how I can help assure a smooth transition as I move out of my DRE position.

Report respectfully submitted by Rachel White, Director of Religious Education