

UUCF Religious Education Report January 11th 2021 Board Meeting

Religious Education Overview:

With the holidays, RE took a couple week break from passing out the activity kits. The original plan, which has since been postponed for now, was to start with in-person RE in January (for both K-6 RE and youth). Since that is not currently happening, we are pivoting to continue a distance learning approach to RE. For most families, they are mostly wanting to participate in person when it is possible, and many of them were waiting until their children could be vaccinated so they would be comfortable doing so.

General Update:

For general RE, the teachers spoke to the families/children regarding their interest in Zoom vs. activity kits and the children asked for a combination of the two methods. RE met on Zoom on January 9th and the children were very happy to see each other. For the time being moving forward, the RE teachers will prepare the activity kit materials and package them for a month's worth of lessons and those activity kits will with be mailed or personally delivered by the teachers so that the children can meet on Zoom and do the activities with their teachers and each other and have the materials ready from the kits. This option seemed to be the most attractive solution for the children, especially those whose families have a hard time picking up the kits but miss seeing their RE friends on Zoom.

The R.E. staff and I are preparing to be ready to start having children on campus again, and everyone will need to be prepared for the inevitable logistics and trial and error "dance" that occurs with any new change. We will be prepared to make this adjustment as it becomes safe to do so.

General Plan for Youth & Teens:

The idea for the teens and youth is to do a version of Coming of Age for them. Without a teen coordinator, the RE Committee planned to find volunteer facilitators who could run the week-to-week of the program while I took care of the logistics. We have hit a bit of a roadblock with this (not only due to the recent hold on in-person gatherings, but also with outreach) and are still very much in need of volunteer facilitators.

I am working to jumpstart this program by doing a secondary outreach to the teens to get their buy-in/confirmation of participation as well as working on securing potential mentors so that we can at least start matching mentors and teens. I'm hoping to have this done by the end of January so I can put together a tentative schedule of virtual or safe meet-ups throughout the rest of the year (regardless of potential COVID changes).

Report respectfully submitted by Rachel White, Director of Religious Education