

Religious Education Committee Report – Mar 2024

Becky Ricketts, REC Chair

Members of Committee:

- Open position: Special Events
- Cathy Frickert, BoT liaison
- Carter Rakovski, general member
- Christina Garner, general member
- Members of the communications team:
 - o Rebecca Deuel-Gallegos
 - o Lisa Lobito
 - o Mia Lekiki

Members of staff:

- Director of Family Ministry: Sarah Whittenberg
- Nursery Coordinator: Joy Ellis
- Open Positions:
 - o Teen Coordinator
 - o Jr. High Coordinator
 - o RE Assistants: Preschool, Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary

The objective of the committee is to coordinate and support a successful RE program.

Summary of recent accomplishments and current activities:

- Megan Watson has been offered the Teen Coordinator role. Received confirmation of her proposed rate today (3/7) via Rev Jason. With that in hand, I was able to contact her and offer the position. However, it appears that other folks already contacted her, assuming this had already been done. I'm trying to work towards getting all of our ducks in a row prior to her officially coming on board.
- Contingent that Megan takes the job, I will be reducing my hours down to 20 max per week.
- Continuing to work with other LREDA members in SoCal (note: I'm the only member from any of the OC/LA congregations) to put on a TeenCon in April up in the Ventura area. We are meeting again next week to discuss the scope and nature of the event.

• I still need to find someone to be a special events/projects coordinator for the RE committee. At this time, none of the existing committee members are willing to take on that role. Carter R has agreed to coordinate an OWL offering for Spring 2025.

• Right now our biggest need is a volunteer (or group of volunteers) to reach out to each of the families and make a personal ask for them to return to services and in-person RE – and to give us feedback as to what they would like to see from us to make that happen.

List of activities in progress and upcoming events:

- Vernal equinox celebration on 3/17
- Nowruz event 3/24
- Egg Hunt 3/31 (Becky Ricketts is chairing)

- ActiveUU carnival has been moved to April
 - April activities will be focused on leaning in to Earth Month and our 7th principle
- Financial impact:
- The RE committee is working very hard to be judicious stewards of our budget. With a Teen Coordinator coming on board, I will be cutting my hours to make room for their salary in our budget. Once that person is settled, I need to start job hunting for folks to fill our open RE assistant positions (these have been open for over six months now, and it's time to get them filled).

Recommendations to the Board of Trustees:

- Please send me any names you have of young adults whom you might want me to consider for the RE assistant roles

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Whittenberg
Director of Family Ministry
3.7.2024

One additional addendum: I was going to start the parenting support group this month, but with my son's heart surgery and a few other glitches in my personal life I've had to postpone that until next month.

~ SW