

UUCF Religious Education Report October 12th 2021 Board Meeting

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Religious Education Overview:

We have begun to implement the lesson/activity kits for the younger (Preschool/Kinder-6th grade) children in R.E. There are currently just a few families taking part in this at the moment, and the R.E. teachers and I are taking inventory of how it goes this first month to identify how we can make changes to reach as many children and families as possible. Sarah and Kami made phone calls to reach out to the families with children in the younger ages to let them know about the R.E. plan, invite them to register, and invite them to fill out a survey for us to use in making decisions about the programs for the year.

We received a bit of a mixed response: some families are waiting until we return in-person to participate in any R.E. activities, some families want the weekly Zooms, and some are happy with the weekly kits. It is a work in progress as we find what works best for everyone.

Staffing Update:

Katie Bodnar, our Teen Coordinator has resigned her position at UUCF due to personal reasons which limit her time and availability to best serve our program. She will be staying through October. Her parting is on good terms and Rev. Jason and I both invited her and her family to join in any of UUCF's congregational activities. She did have some valid feedback regarding the scope and expectations of the Teen Coordinator position, which I will bring up at the next R.E. Committee meeting and invite the committee to do some work on re-evaluating the Teen Coordinator position.

Youth & Teens

Given that this age group has had the opportunity to be vaccinated, the R.E. committee decided that these families may be more open to in-person gatherings. Based on conversations that Katie, Katrina, and Hilary had about the teen program, Katrina and I outlined a basic timeline for the teens:

- Oct 30- Halloween Activity (also for all of the R.E. families)
- Nov 7- Confirm Coming of Age participants (high school ages)
- Nov 11-14- DeBenville work weekend
- First Sunday in December- Teens meeting back in person (assuming all is okay with COVID Committee)
- Dec 19- Solstice Service (work on including the children/teens)
- January 17th- Coming of Age kick-off date
- June 12th- Coming of Age Ceremony

R.E. Committee:

The RE Committee continues to meet every month on the 3rd Sunday of the month. In those meetings, topics such as the RE Curriculum plan, returning to in-person strategies, RE materials, activities, etc. are discussed.

Other:

The R.E. Teachers and I have continued to consolidate the boxes (clean the mess) in the Chapman lounge. This past Sunday after UUCF was given the keys and official access to the classrooms in the other building, the R.E. staff helped move the rest of our materials out of the Chapman lounge. This coming Sunday, they will work on organizing those materials into the black cabinets in the classrooms.

Halloween: This year for Halloween, R.E. will be putting together a driving Trick-or-treat scavenger hunt style activity. We are getting families (particularly those of the teens) to volunteer to host a “treat spot” at their home where participating children/families will get to play a simple game and receive a little treat. This will be a fun opportunity not only for the younger children and families, but also for the teens as the idea is to have them running the different locations.

Report respectfully submitted by Rachel White, Director of Religious Education