

In Support of RE, Families, Teens, Youth, and Children: RE Group meeting

Meeting Minutes 6/7/15

-minutes by B.Fox, led by Peggy K.

North Chapel: library

In attendance: *Peggy, Hope, Denise, Ben, Ultan, Jenny, Laurent, Ariel, Geraldine, Shoshana, Daniel*

Minutes: **action in highlight**

Opening words:

- read by Peggy K. – (excerpt)...finding holiness within us and around us....

North Chapel Board: update (*Denise*)

- Geraldine and her children have been approved by the Board to attend Star Island for a week July 18th, 2015.

Owl Program: update (*Ultan & Jenny*)

- Age range for programming 7th-9th grade; 10th-12th
 - Ultan/Jenny would need updated training this Summer for the younger youth; which they could potentially do
- To run this Fall, 15x kids (min 8x) would be needed to run the program
 - Parents of participants would need to commit for constant/continued youth attendance
 - 3x misses may mean inability to continue enrollment
- the UCC has similar curriculum to OWL
 - **Jenny & Ultan to do outreach to local UCC/UU's who could support/ or be substitute leader if able/needed.**
- PR for program
 - **survey needed to parents could be helpful in order to plan/assess (Geraldine)**
 - target age: 7th-9th grade
 - could dovetail with CTWK's as well
 - RE office/Geraldine would need to help with administrative support for the program:
 - Forms, orientation for parents, etc.
 - Ultan/Jenny would teach curriculum
 - Recruitment information from survey and other known parents interested to be forwarded to Jenny

New Program within the North Chapel: Change the World Kids Rising

- Target age: 4th-7th grade
- Group can change their name themselves & notify RE

- Group will meet 1x/month at church, during Sunday service

June 14th 2015: CTWK and RE will have special programming at Artistree

- CTWK will work with older youth in building gardens at Artistree
- Ben and Geraldine will work with K-3 youth via Drumming group in the performance hall

Rites of Passage: update (*Ben*)

- Ben and Joan have been in discussion about developing a rites of passage group
 - Group would need survey of participants # to fill group
 - Need survey in addition to/like OWL survey by front office
 - Like OWL, would need parental support
 - Group could meet over several Spring/Early Summer months culminating in outdoor experiential
 - Earliest start date would be next Spring 2016

Re programming overview: discussion

- Anthea is stepping down this Summer from RE: taught nature spirituality piece
 - Ben has agreed to take over this Fall 2015 (K-3)
- Discussion on usage of Tapestry of Faith: UUA curriculum
 - How much is being used vs. organic independent creative play?
 - *Geraldine*: there is both, more so the latter, dependent on # of children in attendance and matrix of new/returning children and needs of the day
 - children have been able to lead each other as well
 - *Daniel*: could we ask the parents to describe what is in place and what is not for their children's RE programming?
 - Children have a lot of structured thinking at school, could RE do more in the way of creative thinking to foster spiritual meaning making to balance that out?
 - Could there be guest speakers/experiences for RE youth?
 - Eg visiting local synagogue, Episcopal church, Buddhist center, & Shambala center etc.
 - Could this group set up a set of goals and/or objectives for RE youth
 - Covering all youth from infancy through high school
 - Group agreed this could be done and is in the process of being covered through current and planned programming
 - RE pamphlet could be drafted for parents/PR to identify goals and state intention(s) of programming
- Peggy K., Peg B. and Hope Y. are to step down at some point this Summer from this group in order to allow it to stand on its own
 - Group agreed this could be done with current attendees (and a few unable to attend today)

Further needs for discussion today:

- *Shoshana*: Could babies be brought into some sort of RE programming as well?

- Weekly infant care has been difficult to maintain due to staffing
- Agreed that some sort of some sort of curriculum/RE could be added to infants
- *Daniel*: there are members within the church who have had not been able to have a say with such programming, how could they have the opportunity to have a say?

Next meeting: July 12th