

In Support of RE, Children, Youth and Families

December 13 2015

Minutes

Present: Denise Lyons, Ariel Louis, Jenny Beaudin, Ultan Doyle, Hope Yager, Steven Crossmon, Jessica Stout, Geraldine Fowler, Wendy Pantoja

Board Action Items: Safe Congregations Policy

Opening Words Geraldine

Start: 11:45. Geraldine read "Prayer for our children" written by Robert Kaufmann

Welcome & Update Geraldine & Ariel

Discussed the reason why we started this Committee. Denise Lyons gave an overview of the Planning Process outcomes from 2014 and that what came from that was the need to better support families and children not only through RE programming but in other areas as well. Understanding that support/programming does not only take place on Sunday mornings. Such as pizza night including families, child care for concerts, meetings and events, programming for older children etc.

It was clarified that a RE Committee has been in place but that was mostly to support teachers and the Sunday program. In years past there was a larger RE committee but due to lower number of children, less participation, this committee decreased.

Committee Members/Roles Geraldine & Ariel

Briefly discussed the need for members and committee roles. Ariel is the Chair and we will need a Secretary. No one was appointed as yet.

Rev. Wendy asked if we had a RE Treasurer but we discussed that we did not and that historically the committee's did not have a treasurer. The board chair discusses finances and budgets with Ann Wynia (NC Treasurer) directly.

RE Update Geraldine (and other RE Teachers)

Geraldine shared that she feels the new format (K-3, 4-6) is working really well. The children all seem to be very happy. The 4-6 group in particular enjoys the CTWK week. Various parents said the children are enjoying the program and like the current structure. Steven noted that he has seen subtle changes to the program over the years and appreciates that suggestions made during the Planning Process have been implemented.

Rev. Wendy spoke about the “Coming of Age” program and we discussed the need to consider this as a possibility and if we would like to offer it to the older kids. Interest needs to be discussed with parents of older children.

OWL

Ultan and Jenny

Ultan and Jenny discussed what the OWL program is and explained that they have been to the training for grades 4-6. They explained that the class is approx. 8 one hour sessions. While our regular RE classes do not require a weekly commitment in order for the OWL program to be successful we will need a commitment from parents/students and consistency. Ultan mentioned that the minimum number of students should be 6 and suggested we start in March (end of ski season) and run through June (end of the school year). Steven suggested we structure it in such a way as to begin in April and end beginning of June. It was discussed that these classes potentially happen during regular RE time – with parents opting out if they wish and us having a backup plan for those children not participating in OWL.

Students signing up for OWL do not need to be a part of the church. The curriculum is secular. Anyone from the community is welcome.

UCC churches also use OWL.

Parents who are interested should talk to other parents to help gain more involvement.

Safe Congregations: It is suggested that the North Chapel has a “Safe Congregations” policy before starting OWL. Denise will talk to the board and will be back in touch.

Moving Forward:

- Investigate Safe Congregations and begin the policy
- Marketing for OWL program
- Parent orientation meeting for OWL program. Early February.
- Informational parent meeting – maybe a “round table discussion” one Sunday after church for parents who have questions or who are unsure about the program.
- Press release? Make sure it has good information on what it is about and bios of Ultan and Jenny.
- Share the information with friends, parents of children’s friends, PTO’s, other churches.
- Look to see if there is a video about OWL?

Other

We discussed the committee dynamics and decided it was best to start with a small “task force” with meeting attendance open to those who wish to attend. Parents will receive minutes so they are aware of what is being discussed – welcome to be removed from receiving the communications.

Geraldine, Ariel and Denise and/or Susan to meet soon to discuss roles/duties.

Next Steps

Next Meeting

January 10 2016

Adjourn 1pm