**UUCF Religious Education Report**

 **February 11th, 2020 Board Meeting**

**Attendance / Enrollment:** Sunday R.E. attendance in January averaged 22 children and youth.

**Religious Education Recap for December:**

* **Childcare–Age Infant-2/3:** Childcare was available for children 2 years old and younger.
* **Preschool/Kindergarten, Younger Elementary, Older Elementary: January Theme: Integrity:** These 3 groups used a variety of activities to explore the question of what it means to be people of integrity.
* **Youth:** The youth are currently helping to plan/organize the children’s activities during the Service Auction. They have decided to have a “Game Night” for the children during the service auction, with video and board games, activities, and a movie. They have begun to distinguish responsibilities for this event. (see below for other new regarding the Youth)

**February Theme: Resilience**

**March Theme: Wisdom**

**Important Updates:**

* **HS Youth & Jr. High Youth Coordinator Update:**

Unfortunately, Olivia did not show up on January 26th to meet or begin working with the teens. Though I was in contact with her during the week and the days before she was supposed to start, and have since reached out multiple times, I have not heard back from her and do not know what happened. We chose to move forward with her hiring after Christina, Hilary, and I each had an opportunity to interview her and the RE Committee voted to approve her. After speaking with Rev. Jason, I have condensed and amended the detailed job description written by the RE Committee in order to represent the position in a more approachable way (we worry that the job description makes the position seem daunting).

I am open to all input, help, and suggestions for finding an appropriate coordinator for both the High School and Junior High youth groups. This has become a task that has taken much longer than anyone anticipated and since it is a very part time position that requires an individual with specific skills and personality, I have found it difficult to find qualified people. And while we all want someone to be hired and start as soon as possible, I want to ensure that whoever we do hire, is the right person for the job.

Until we hire someone, I am open to utilizing volunteers, though I worry about the stability and consistency of the program for the teens and youth. They no longer trust the program and I know that we have a challenge to regain their trust. When Olivia did not show up, I ended up being with the teens and made it clear to them that moving forward we would have a program and activities for them, regardless of what the outcome with Olivia was. I do not want to go back to nothing. In the weeks since, I have been with them, and we have had wonderful discussions and participated in fun activities about communication and resilience, but I know that this is not a sustainable solution.

I am open to suggestions and I hope that at the RE Visioning meeting (see below), we will be able to make a plan for the group moving forward.

* **Classroom Spaces/Building Adjustments:** I have begun work to condense the black cabinets in room 105 that belong to RE. These were previously in the classrooms upstairs and contain curricula and materials. Additionally, for the classroom spaces, we have been utilizing the community room, Library, the preschool, and room 102 in the ASA Building. The teachers and children have been adjusting to this process.
* **RE Committee:** The RE Committee has adjusted our meeting schedule to take place on the 4th Sunday of each month and welcome any member or parent that is able to attend and has been meeting consistently once a month. Those in attendance have been: Rose Lomheim, Hilary Key, Stephanie Valdes, Barbara Mauger, and Katrina Gomez-Enriquez, Jennifer Carlson, and Rebecca Ricketts.

Rev. Jason attended the last meeting and suggested to me that we have an agenda to keep the meeting on track and avoid runaway conversations.

The next RE meeting will be on Sunday, March 22nd following the service. (February’s meeting will be the Visioning Workshop).

* **RE Vision Workshop/RE Forum:** We will be hosting an RE Visioning workshop on February 23rd to reassess the needs of our program, get feedback from our families, and gain support/volunteers to help put our vision into action. All parents and congregants are welcome to attend.

Report respectfully submitted by

Rachel White, Director of Religious Education