**UUCF Religious Education Report**

**November 12th, 2019 Board Meeting**

**Attendance / Enrollment:**  Sunday R.E. attendance in October averaged 21 children and youth.

**Religious Education Recap for October:**

* **Childcare–Age Infant-2/3:** Childcare was available for children 2 years old and younger.
* **Preschool/Kindergarten, Younger Elementary, Older Elementary: October Theme: Belonging:** These 3 groups used a variety of activities to explore the question of what it means to be people of belonging. All children and youth also participated in the Annual Halloween activities in RE.
* **OWL:** O.W.L. continued to meet with 24 youth and 2 facilitators, Liv Sadoval and Ramon Gallegos. Jenn Carlson has been a great help as the parent coordinator for O.W.L. All of the parents have signed up to provide lunches for the teens during their sessions and Jenn has helped with communication and coordination of the lunches as well as teaching all of the “Parent Sessions” during the program. The last day of O.W.L. will be on Sunday, November 17th.
* **Youth –Grade 9-12:** After speaking with this group, they have continued to volunteer with the younger classes every other Sunday.

**November Theme: Attention**

**December Theme: Awe**

**Important Updates:**

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

The candidate pool for both positions has somewhat stalled. In addition to the Indeed job posting, I have given Rev. Jason the job descriptions to circulate as well as posted the positions on the UUA Jobs Board in the hopes that we receive more candidates.

In the meantime, Christina Garner has agreed to be the Personnel Committee representative during the job search and interviews and Hilary Key has agreed to serve in the same capacity for the R.E. Committee.

It has taken us some time, but we are scheduling an interview with a possible candidate for the HS Youth position to take place this week or on Sunday. This is someone that I have previously interviewed and feel would be a good fit. Her name is Olivia Strebe. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology and is currently earning her Master’s in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. She has a background in mental health and counseling work as well as experience as a tutor for Junior High and High School aged youth. Additionally, her views and beliefs align with our UU principles and her schedule is one that allows for her to be available on the weekends for outside activities with the teens.

I have not yet found an individual to consider for the Jr. High coordinator position and am open to outside assistance to do so.

While this has been a slow process, I am confident that we will find individuals that are the right fit for our program. And while I am anxious to hire someone soon so that our programs can move forward, I believe it is extremely important not to rush to hiring any one person just to fill the position.

* **OWL:** This upcoming Sunday will be the last session for our O.W.L. program, which has been a success with 24 teens completing the sessions. After O.W.L., Sarah Hawe has volunteered to work with our Jr. High group.
* **RE Committee:** The RE Committee has adjusted our meeting schedule to take place on the same Sunday each month and welcome any member or parent that is able to attend.

The next RE meeting will be on Sunday, November 24th following the service.

* **RE Vision Workshop/RE Forum:** Last year in January, Rev. Jason and I hosted an R.E. Vision Workshop that resulted in positive actions (i.e. O.W.L.) happening within RE. I plan to host another RE Forum /Workshop in January to reassess the needs of our program, get feedback from our families, and gain support/volunteers to help put our vision into action.

Report respectfully submitted by

Rachel White, Director of Religious Education