

## **Religious Education Annual Meeting Report 10.21.18**

### **2017-2018 Year**

#### **Goals for 2017-18**

REC would like to engage in a white supremacy audit of our children's RE program. We are also looking to create better overall evaluation for the RE program including teachers, families and children.

Create a lifespan OWL program beginning with surveying the congregation's needs and interests.

#### **RE Committee**

Our RE Committee consist of Wil Rivers as Chair and Anna Sorensen as Council Liaison, Arthur Freeheart, Jenn Whittaker, Esther Katz, Ron Tavernier, Ashley Nadean-Clover, Shelby Hunkins and Jeff Frank are current members.

#### **RE Teacher Ministry**

For 2017-18 we had 64 volunteer teachers in RE. We hosted a teacher orientation in September which focused on "Creating a Supportive Environment for Respectful Learning". Teachers were recognized for their ministry as part of the RE Sunday Worship Service and during a catered dinner.

#### **RE Children's Ministry**

In 2017-18 we had 69 children and youth participating in RE Programming. We utilized Chalice Children for our Nursery, Spirit Play for our PreK-1st graders, Moral Tales for 2nd-3rd graders, Maker Space for 4th-6th graders, Middle Level Our Whole Lives and Neighboring Faiths for 7th-8th graders and our Youth group for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders continued to utilize a 4-week rotation model that includes discussion, guest speaker, community service and worship attendance. The youth offered a deeply engaging worship service in March about school gun violence. The Neighboring Faiths class attend worship services at SLU and the Potsdam Synagogue, went to Akwesasne and engaged with guest speakers. Our MakerSpace group created a book about environmental stewardship. For the summer, RE hosted Summer with Seuss, an 8-session program designed to utilize Dr. Seuss stories to bring to life our UU values and principles.

#### **RE Adult Ministry**

The DRE continues to offer a Chalice Circle program on the second Tuesday of each month.

#### **DRE**

In 2017-18, Carol completed her fourth year as DRE. She continues to be the Vice Chair of the LREDA Seaway Chapter. She attended a (5) week webinar training in Safer Congregation Practices. She completed her third Renaissance Module - Multiculturalism in July. For her final project, she worked with (3) other DRE's to create a teacher training workshop. She also

attended the LRE Week at Star Island where she was steeped in dismantling white supremacy topics as well as whole church worship education.

### **2018-19 Year**

#### **RE Committee**

Cara Coffin, Jim Williams, Arianna Whittaker joined our committee

#### **RE Children's Ministry**

We are still gathering registrations for RE this year. Nursery for infants to 3 years of age with (2) Sundays a month utilizing Chalice Children curriculum, Spirit Play for 4 years to 1st grade, Spirit Play for 2nd - 4th graders, MakerSpace for 5th to 7th graders, Coming of Age for 8th and 9th graders and Youth Group for 10th through 12th graders. We will offer a Sexuality and Our Faith workshop for our youth group.

#### **RE Adult Ministry**

The RE Committee is reviewing their commitment and strategies for Adult Religious Education.

#### **Other RE Ministries**

We continue the Traveling Chalice Ministry to provide congregants with or without families a way to deepen their faith during the week by taking home a chalice with resources for a week. Also, we continue to provide a weekly faith development inspiration email, website post and Facebook post for all congregants. We will be hosting an OWL facilitator training in the spring.

#### **Potential RE Assistant**

We are also looking to hire a part time assistant for RE. Our RE children enrollment has been flat for many years. This position would provide additional support for lifespan OWL programming, family ministry resource development and grow our RE ministry