

DLE Board Report – August 2016

Curriculum for Children and Youth:

- 10:30am: Programming & Education for Children and Youth

SPECIALTY CLASS SUMMER FORMAT

Children (preK-5th grade) and Youth (6th-12th grade, 12-18yrs) are invited to join their families in the service through the Story Wisdom. Following Story Wisdom, Children (preK-5th grade) will follow their teachers to the large classroom space. Youth (6th-12th grade, 12-18yrs) will REMAIN IN THE SERVICE.

This Month for Children... August marks the last month of the 2016 Specialty Class Summer! This month will feature beekeeping (everything but the live bees), watercolors, an outdoor walk and more!

This Month for Youth... This month, and for the remainder of the summer, our youth will join the adults in the sanctuary for the duration of the service. Parents are to contact me in advance to make arrangements if this is problematic for their family. This provides youth with the much needed opportunity to learn to be in community with the adults of the congregation, and to learn more about UU Sunday services. This option has been posted in the FLASH.

- **Volunteer/Training/Housekeeping Matters:**

- **Volunteers:** I am making an effort to mention in various meetings how desperately short we are of volunteers for the 2016-2017 year. We HAVE LESS THAN HALF of the number of volunteers needed to run the bare minimum of Sunday programs – this does not include adding anything at this point. I have also put together a postcard mailing that I will send out to individuals who I know are capable of assisting (see attachment). Without help, we are facing real troubles this year, particularly when I take vacation-time to care for my new infant. It has been suggested that I track the shortage of volunteers in actual numbers, and that I provide these to you. While our finances are tight this year, I still need to suggest that we begin to consider the possibility of *paying or hiring* teachers for Sunday mornings. Many congregations have had to do this – teachers are one of the tools I require to do my job, and I currently do not have the tools to do my job.

SurveyMonkey: I have mentioned our first SurveyMonkey Survey of parents in previous reports. General trends are that while they may only have some involvement now, the majority would like to be involved more. The vast majority are looking for additional social opportunities for their families including family game nights, movie nights, seasonal activities (such as beach gatherings, fall outings, sledding, etc.). Some of the responses to why they are not attending as much as they would like include:

“Travel time is an impediment”

“While I love the staff and some people, I don't feel safe with so many hostile people acting out.”

Take-Aways:

1. We need more volunteers to offer the non-Sunday programs families are seeking.
2. The unrest of this past year had an impact on families – we need to work to create uplifting opportunities to bring them back.
3. The traditional Sunday Morning program model is not going to reach all of the families who would like to be involved. We need to find new ways of reaching them.

Families:

- Friday Night Out for August is 08.12.16 – we are fully staffed and have 10 children registered.

Adult Programming:

- Brewing Community: This group is on its summer schedule and will meet on the last Wednesday of the month in conjunction with Wednesday Supper Out.
- Wednesday Supper:
 - Summer potlucks continue in people's homes. As mentioned under Brewing Community, the last Wednesday of each month will be dinner out at a restaurant/brewery/eatery.
- CUUPS continues to meet for lunch on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the That's A Pizza, Long Lake Rd location. This group is preparing for their second annual Pagan Fair in October. There is already quite a bit of community interest.

Staffing Matters:

My regular Sunday off in August is 08.21.16. Along with the rest of the staff, I have coordinated vacation time with the operations team for this month.

Policy:

I continue to work with the Safe Congregation Task Force. The SCRT now meets regularly to proactively discuss safety matters and procedural questions. This will surely benefit the congregation overall.

Attendance: class # is all age groups combined, N = Nursery

07.03.16 – N=1, 10

07.08.16 – FNO – 4

07.10.16 – N=2, 3

07.17.16 – N=0, 1

07.24.16 – N=3, 4

07.31.16 – All Congregation Service