

DLE Board Report – October 2016

Curriculum for Children and Youth:

- 10:30am: Programming & Education for Children and Youth
 - Sunday programming for Children and Youth throughout the 2016 - 2017 program year will complement the Sunday Services in our efforts to move closer to congregational thematic ministry. This thematic calendar will be exploring the source traditions, and considering wisdom from around the world.

Sundays in October:

- The theme for the month of October for both Sunday Services as well as Children's Programming preK-5th grade will focus on "Loving the Stranger" which will launch us into our second annual "Socktober" campaign, and lessons based on "Kid President's Guide to Being Awesome". This is our second annual Socktober Drive, and the children really seem to enjoy it. Not familiar with "Socktober" or Kid President? Check out these links: Socktober - <http://soulpancake.com/socktober/> Kid President - <http://kidpresident.com/>
- After conversation with our youth, we'd like to make room for their feedback and interests, and allow them to help drive the focus of their time together. This could include teaching a lesson to the younger children, planning service projects, designing youth events/gatherings, etc. This will help them develop leadership skills, and let them know that we value them, respect them, and support them on their journey. This month, we will explore creating a lesson for the younger children for November, and think about the lessons they have to offer to those around them.

Volunteer/Training/Housekeeping Matters:

- **Volunteers:** As always, we could use more assistance staffing the various programs we offer. I have begun to coordinate scheduling of volunteers for the time that I *will be away from the congregation in a professional role* related to the birth of our daughter. It is my intention to have the Sunday morning portion of this scheduling completed by the end of October. I am currently awaiting responses from existing teachers to see if any of them are able to pick up more than one Sunday – this will inform my efforts going forward regarding how many extra people I need to seek out.

Families & Other Child/Youth Programming:

- Friday Night Out for October is 10/14 – it is fully staffed and we have 10 children. This is near our capacity for two staff people.
- The Nurturing Families Committee met on 10.12.16 – Marco Cabrera, Karin Killian, and I were present. Once again, we shared some personal thoughts as parents, spent some

time considering items that we had brainstormed in our last meeting, and shared some philosophical thoughts regarding social and moral responsibility on some key issues of concern to parents. Some concrete action items or progress made since last month include:

- The “Child/Youth of the Month” program was rolled out on Sunday, 10.09.16. We are awaiting entries from children and youth and hope to have a child/youth of the month to feature in November. The group discussed ways to include/acknowledge the child/youth of the month as part of the first Sunday Service of a month. I will discuss this more with Rabbi Chava and the Sunday Services Committee.
- We discussed the possibility of developing a small pocket/wallet size card that offers info on our Lifespan Experience Program (infants-adults), similar to the pocket/wallet size UU principles/sources cards located on the Welcome Table.
- We discussed ideas for trying to get more families to turn in registration forms for their children.
- Marco offered to begin drafting more web content for the Lifespan section of the website.
- We spent a few minutes discussing how I am coordinating with John Bailey to involve the children musically in the December All Music Service.

The committee will meet again on Wednesday, Nov. 9th at 9:15am

- Coming of Age - Heather Shumaker has expressed interest in working on a Coming of Age program for middle school youth. She attended the September LE Committee meeting to discuss her ideas. At this point there is not an anticipated launch date, but Marco Cabrera volunteered to work with her on this effort.
- OWL – We had an OWL parent meeting on 10.05.16. While only 2 parents attended, I received emails/messages in advance of the meeting from parents who were interested, but who were going to be unable to attend. I’ve also heard from some interested parents after the fact. We are fortunate to have gained 3 more OWL trained instructors to the congregation – Instructors in attendance at the meeting were Barb Overdier, Nick Erber, Susan Holmes Glazier, Kat Norman/Keith Norman. The instructors who were gathered decided that the next step will be to create a *surveymonkey* survey to send to those parents who had expressed real interest to find out what days/times are best with them for a potential January launch. I will create the survey and send it out within the next week.

Adult Programming: Adult programming is an important part of the Lifespan Experience Program of this congregation. The UUA offers that *“We believe that faith is a journey we take*

together...education takes a lifetime. It happens both within and beyond a congregation's walls. We support one another as individuals, families, and communities in an ongoing search for truth and meaning..." (uua.org) This includes small group ministry, as well as social (which is interpersonally educational and important to relationship development) and educational (in the more formal sense) opportunities – those programs that enhance and enrich the lives of members of our community through creating connection, generating conversation, promoting learning, and supporting our journey together. To get to the heart of the matter, Lifespan Experience *is ministry*.

Updates for this Month:

- **Sunday Morning Learning Opportunity:** 9am Program with Rabbi Chava – this program was launched following a breakfast at the end of September. The learning offered before Sunday Services focuses on the concepts of covenant and covenantal community. This subject aligns with the greater thematic ministry focus for the 2016-2017 Program Year – considering the interfaith calendar and lessons from the interfaith community through the wisdom of our UU Sources.
- **Brewing Community:** This group will meet at Right Brain Brewery on October 13th and 27th from 5-7pm. *Everyone is welcome at this family friendly gathering. Brewing Community locations are selected by John Hoffmann, the Adult Programming Representative to the Lifespan Experience Committee, and are specifically chosen based on their family-friendliness, and availability of food and non-alcoholic options.*
- **Wednesday Supper & Program:** *This supper group is formally chaired by Sandra McDonald and reporting on this group is included herein because of the group ministry function that the supper itself serves. I assist with and participate the supper portion of this program as a congregant for whom the program holds meaning. The programming that follows or is associated with the supper is coordinated under Lifespan Experience.*
 - Wednesday Supper: 5:30pm-6pm social time, 6pm supper. 1st/3rd Wednesdays are potluck, 2nd/4th Wednesdays are \$5/adult, \$3/child 10 and under.
 - Wednesday Programming: The group has decided to hold topical conversations following the suppers this fall, which will be decided by the group itself on a weekly basis for the following week. The most recent two Wednesdays have featured conversations related to articles from the UU World magazine. We will continue to make the 7pm programming timeslot flexible if there are requests to make informational presentations, film discussions, learning opportunities, etc.
- CUUPS will be moving its monthly meeting to the last Wednesday of each month, from 12:30-1:30pm, and to a new location – The Blue Tractor. This group is preparing for their second annual Pagan Fair in October. This is a great opportunity to have a lot of public traffic in our building – estimates last year were that over 200 people attended throughout the one day event. This year it will be a two-day event – the evening of

Friday, 10/21 and all day Saturday, 10/22. It will include the wares vendors, service providers, and informational workshops throughout the day on Saturday, with a similar format to last year. The additional Friday Night event this year will include a “Fall Ball” type social event, with childcare provided, and many of the vendor booths will likewise be open. These events are free to the public. *All costs related to this event are covered by the vendor fees we have taken in, or by donations made – a donation basket is put out for the food served at the event.*

Staffing Matters:

I will not be taking a Sunday off in October. I continue to discuss time away following the birth of our daughter in December with Rabbi Chava.

Policy:

I continue to work with the Safe Congregation Task Force. The SCRT now meets regularly to proactively discuss safety matters and procedural questions.

Attendance: This section is revised per request to include numbers from the previous year month-to-month in comparison format. Class # is all age groups combined, N = Nursery. *Please recall that in fall of 2015 we attempted both a 9am and a 10:30am class.* Numbers shown in this report always reflect the previous month’s data. *Please likewise note that the attendance taken in class is generally more accurate than the count that greeters attempt to make during the service. Greeters look in on the class at a single point during the service. It is very common that a child is in the bathroom when they count, or that children are dropped off directly to the classroom later/after the start of class – families do not always run on time. It is also sometimes the case that a child might start off in the nursery and then switch over to the classroom part way through the service – something our classroom volunteers and staff take into account since we have parents signing children 5th grade and under out of the classrooms and nursery each week.*

September 2015 – Sundays	September 2016 - Sundays
09.06.15 – 7, N=3 (<i>Labor Day Weekend</i>)	09.04.16 – 3, N=1 (<i>Labor Day Weekend</i>)
09.13.15 – All Congregation, N=1	09.11.16 – All Congregation, N=1
09.20.15 – 9am = 4, N=0, 10:30am = 2, N=1 (Total of 6 and N=1)	09.18.16 – 6, N=1
09.27.15 – 9am = 4, N=1, 10:30am = 5, N=1 (Total of 9, N=2)	09.25.16 – 9, N=4
September 2015 FNO	September 2016 FNO
09.11.15 – FNO - 9	09.09.16 – FNO - 6