Religious Education Committee Annual Report 2009-2010

Members: Delores Benjamin, Liz Gerdnic, Morgan Gresham (chair), Jill McCracken, and Mia Scala-Beltran,

In the 2007-2008 report, REC reported an increase of average Sunday attendance by children in the program from 3 per week to an average of 12. Although the averages for this reporting year 2009-2010 are lower than the previous year, we are pleased that we were able to hire a temporary director of Religious Education in January 2010. Since her hiring, Careena Cornette has been busy with revising and writing documents such as the welcome packets and volunteer forms.

In the first half of the year, we were primarily concerned with planning and providing lessons and activities for the classroom in the absence of a DRE. We began by putting together a rotation list of teachers in order to split up the RE class into two separate classes. We've also worked to create cross-over activities with some other Ministries in order to get the children more involved in other aspects of the church services; RE students help collect food during the offering on alternating Sundays.

Careena has clearly connected with the RE students, and she has made good progress in soliciting volunteers for the secondary classroom. However, there are questions as to whether this support is sustainable given the current composition of the congregation, especially since we are small and our new parents with children understandably are looking to attend part of the service.

Primary concerns of the REC:

- Maintaining volunteer support for the RE program
- With the division of the RE students into two classes, it is difficult to staff both classes adequately. Given the difficulties we have had garnering volunteers, we might consider some more creative ideas:
    - Using part of our allotted budget to hire a second teacher to come in part time on Sundays during RE
    - Looking toward more family-Sundays (notes from webinar); certain Sundays in which children stay in the sanctuary with parents