

Religious Education Committee Annual Report: 2013-2014

Members: Michael Pohl (chair); Morgan Gresham (secretary); Dolores Benjamin; Jesica Peters; Katy Korb (minister and adviser); Albrecht Cornette-MacCue (DRE)

The RE program has had a consistent core of around 6 students, ages 8 through 13, with visitors occasionally pushing attendance to 10-12. We had several visiting families with younger children (ages 6 and under) during summer 2013.

During the first half of the year, the RE Committee worked to increase the sense of community among those involved in the RE program. We began with a well-attended (over 30 participants) spaghetti supper and discussion forum on what people are looking for in an RE program. Follow-up included organizing an "RE at UU St. Pete" Facebook group; get-togethers at St. Pete Shuffle; a pumpkin-carving; and a Christmas party.

There were three larger initiatives the Committee planned to complete during the second half of the year:

1. Start a volunteer-led class for ages 4-7.
2. Streamline forms and processes related to staff, volunteers, and safe congregation policies.
3. Start a covenant group for parents.

While we made significant progress on all three, the younger kids' class and the covenant group were put on hold due to church-wide budget issues and the resignation of our DRE. As a Committee and as individuals, we instead worked on short-, mid-, and long-term visioning for the program, soliciting input from Connie Goodbread (Congregational Life Staff, UUA Southern Region), Christine Pensa (DRE, UU Clearwater), and others.

As a transition step, we are looking to hire a part-time RE Coordinator who will focus on curricula and teaching, with the Committee assuming administrative duties to help lighten the Coordinator's load.

*Michael Pohl, Chair, RE Committee
April 8, 2014*