

Religious Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Sunday, April 12, 2015

- Meeting opened at 9:00am. In attendance: Dolores Benjamin (treasurer); Meredith Keith-Chirch; Lisa Hill (RE Coordinator); Beate Hughes-Brown; Jack Donovan (minister); Morgan Gresham (clerk); Michael Pohl (chair).
- Beate moved to approve March 8 minutes. Dolores seconded. All approved.
- Action item status
 - **Lisa** will get parents to sign off on media release for the Kids at UU St. Pete Facebook page.
 - Done for all regular attendees.
 - **Lisa** will open the Kids at UU St. Pete group effective April 2, 2015.
 - Done.
 - **Morgan** will find volunteer brochures and give them to Dolores.
 - Done.
 - **Beate** will review and revise the yellow "What Do We Teach" brochure (correct email; include the statements of purpose/plan; update information).
 - Done. Beate distributed updates to committee for review. Asked for feedback on items marked in yellow in particular.
 - **Meredith** will send Beate her comments for the yellow "What Do We Teach" brochure revisions.
 - Done.
 - **Michael and Morgan** will get Lisa the materials from Dolores about teacher and volunteer training.
 - Done.
 - **Meredith** will talk with Nic about music for RE Sunday on May 17.
 - In progress. Will follow up with Nic to confirm details.
- New business
 - Coordinator report (Lisa)
 - Hogwarts camp
 - Made a thumb drive copy of the Hogwarts materials.
 - Meeting with volunteers on Wednesday.
 - RE Sunday
 - Meeting with kids today and following Sundays after service.
 - Kids will make bags for volunteer appreciation.
 - Older kids will lead "Spirit of Life."
 - Younger kids will lead "If You're Happy and You Know It."
 - Main story: Turkish coat of honor fable.
 - **Lisa and Meredith** talk with Erin about accompanist music for RE Sunday.
 - Facebook

- Based on Lisa's analysis, posts with pictures and stories of interest perform best, but keeping up with this (and other church communications) may require a dedicated person or team.
 - Moving the nursery
 - Still hashing out details. May occur this summer.
- Youth class report (Michael & Morgan)
 - Good response from kids so far.
 - Most recent class felt rushed; may need to restructure the class a bit or expand the class time.
 - Need help sprucing up upstairs room.
 - **Michael and Morgan** will seek input on and ideas for redecorating the media room.
- Egg hunt report (Morgan)
 - Balloons were a big hit; other items not so much.
 - Consider different prizes next year (more balloons, kites, frisbees, jacks, pinwheels).
 - Consider different structure (instead of empty eggs, put prizes, puzzle pieces, etc. in eggs).
 - Need more help preparing and hiding eggs.
- RE budget items
 - Treasurer's report (Dolores)
 - **Michael and Dolores** will meet to review this year's budget status.
 - OWL training
 - \$300; held in Naples; 7th-9th grade OWL.
 - **Lisa** will talk with Christine Pensa about collaboration between UU St. Pete and UU Clearwater on OWL offerings.
 - 2015-16 Budget
 - Current proposal:
 - \$4400 program budget (our low-end estimate).
 - \$8300 personnel budget (our mid-range estimate) -- cut from the original \$11,425 proposal (our more healthy estimate).
 - Jack proposed moving \$1600 from his salary budget to RE personnel to provide more hours for the RE Coordinator.
 - The RE Committee expressed their extreme appreciation and gratitude to Jack for making this gesture of support for children's RE.
 - **Jack** will present a proposal to the Board to shift some of the minister budget to the RE personnel budget.
 - Beate suggested that we consider our needs from a human resources vantage point:
 - Get together, brainstorm, and plan our program needs for

- summer and beyond (RE retreat?).
 - Define the ideal roles we need for our program.
 - Meet with our current personnel and present the roles we need filled.
 - Search for new personnel as needed.
 - **Lisa and RE Committee members** will meet to work out our program needs (structure, space, schedule, and personnel).
 - **Lisa** will talk with Laura to gauge her interest working with the upper elementary kids.
- Summer schedule
 - Tabled.
- Action item review
 - **All** will provide feedback to Beate on the "What Do We Teach" brochure.
 - **Meredith** will follow up with Nic about music for RE Sunday on May 17.
 - **Lisa and Meredith** talk with Erin about accompanist music for RE Sunday.
 - **Michael and Morgan** will seek input on and ideas for redecorating the media room.
 - **Michael and Dolores** will meet to review this year's budget status.
 - **Lisa** will talk with Christine Pensa about collaboration between UU St. Pete and UU Clearwater on OWL offerings.
 - **Jack** will present a proposal to the Board to shift some of the minister budget to the RE personnel budget.
 - **Lisa and RE Committee members** will meet to work out our program needs (structure, space, schedule, and personnel).
 - **Lisa** will talk with Laura to gauge her interest working with the upper elementary kids.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:00am.

Minutes approved May 3, 2015