

# **2019 Annual Meeting Report**

**Date:** 5/11/2019

**Name of Committee/Team or Job Position:** Director of Religious Education

**Name of Person Submitting the Report:** Katharine Lion

## **Report Contents:**

This has been a year of changes for Buuf's Religious Education. First we said farewell with deep gratitude to Dave Sarra as DRE, and Joanne Krettek & Terry Sundstrom as RE teachers. I changed the wording of religious education title a bit to reflect my intentions in the position, *Children's Religious Education & Adult Faith Development*. I added a new adult program, Mindfulness Workshop, in addition to tweaking the Buuf Brunch into Small Group Ministry with Potluck. Creative Conversations too is in a state of evolution. At the start of the new Buuf calendar, I'll change the title to *Community Conversations* in order to embrace our community but also, hopefully the larger community, hosting informational presentations & forums with conversation following.

### **Children's Religious Education**

We were so lucky to take on two new teachers this year, Tina Eberly & Rachel Reed. They are great teachers! RE was attended this year by 9 regular attendees off and on and over the course of the year we had 8 visitors. With gratitude to Joanne Krettek for most of the organization, our first ever Summer Camp went very well, it was attended by all 8 of our kids, 3 grandkids & 1 cousin. The overall structure was to learn the 7 principles. At the beginning of fall we had a *Blessing of the Backpacks* and then began the *World of Wonder* curriculum which focused on our 7th Principle.

I recruited Jaryn Ruggles to lead a Youth Group but we haven't been able to get it up and going, especially since the teenager attendance has fluctuated from 4 to at times 1 or 0.

### **Adult Faith Development**

Small Group Ministry & Potluck Brunch has had a regular attendance of at least 6 and at times 10. The program of readings, questions & activities based on a topic with each person given time to talk about the topic without interruption has been well received with good feedback. Mindfulness Workshop has had less regular attendance with at times only 2 but highest attendance was 13. Each workshop has been different with different people attending based on the workshop topic. Creative Conversations has had less interest in the past year at times only 2 attending with the highest attendance for "Venezuelan Crisis". The reduction in attendance is the main reason for the shift in format.

### **Other events/work/training**

I attended Midwest Leadership School and with Beth LaFleur gave a two-night presentation on what we learned. I gave presentations at two UU Allcomers nights and Worship & Arts Panel. Created the Water Communion service & helped create Fall Equinox service,

Mindful Compassion service, and wrote a UU Novenas for Christmas Eve service. I revised the family registration form, created bulletin boards for Fuller Fellowship Hall, and conducted 19 background checks. I (with Dave Sarra) also worked with IRS & ICHAT to resume getting free background checks. I worked with Church Mutual & State of Michigan to get the Summer Camp running. Lastly, I spent time training through online UUA sponsored webinar's & classes: New & Old DRE's in 3 parts, Canvas Conversations, Theme-based Whole Congregation Worship, Safe Congregation (where to begin), and Volunteer Sustainability.

Change can at times be difficult but evolution & growth is exciting! As always, I'm all ears for your ideas & suggestions!

Regards, Katharine Lion