

Religious Education Association Committee Report

Date: July 6, 2024

Committee Name:

Advisory Committee

Committee function:

Advises REA Board on JEDI concerns

Chair:

Patricia Bonilla and Christine Hong

Members:

Advisory Committee members are those who attend the Advisory Committee Meeting on the final day of the Annual Conference. This year, members were:

1. Christine Hong
2. Anne Walker
3. Annie Lockhart-Gilroy
4. Tulsa regional group
5. Patricia Bonilla
6. Diane Oliveros
7. Eileen Daily
8. Israel Diaz
9. Joshua Lunde-Whitler
10. Noel Shuell
11. Paulus Eko Kristianto
12. Von Clements
13. Monique Van Dijk

Period covered:

July 2023 – July 2024

Date and format of meetings (e.g., email, web, phone):

Zoom and email

Major activities since last report:

Advisory Committee is not a regularly meeting committee. Rather, the committee is ready to offer support and advise on JEDI concerns that arise for the Board and membership. This year the Advisory Committee met to discuss the Code of Conduct and any necessary revisions towards the 2024 meeting. They also spent time in discussion about the histories and strategies of inclusion at REA and its growing global identity.

Members of the Advisory Committee and members of the Board also helped to facilitate Circle Process at the November 2023 Fall Gathering. Prior to Fall Gathering we had some email preparation, including reading *The Little Book of Circle Processes* by Kay Pranis. We met via Zoom to discuss how we wanted to facilitate Circle Process, our goals, and to design prompts and outcomes for the Fall Gathering's time of conversation with members. The Circle Process at Fall Gathering centered around discussion about REA's modality in meetings, online or in person. We felt it was important to hear what member's felt was gained and lost as we considered a transition back into in person or continued to remain online.

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

The Code of Ethics is a pending document in its final stages that should go before the Advisory Committee as a final step before going to the full membership for a vote. We are awaiting comments from editorial partners, and a new draft incorporating those suggestions and comments. It is possible that this piece of policy needs to be picked up and moved forward with the incoming JEDI officer after July.

Each year the Code of Conduct should also be reviewed. Next review is towards the July 2025 annual gathering.

Future Plans:

See above re: Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct

Informational Items:

None

Questions for staff and the board/larger group:

None

Other Notes:

None