

Exploring the Future of Religious Education and Faith Formation at CUUC

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March 30, 2023 Update

Background

We are in a period of deep discernment as a congregation and as a faith movement. There have been increasing conversations among UU religious educators related to changing family needs, current demographics, and the future of faith formation in our congregations. Declining membership and attendance is a national phenomenon, across denominations. Everyone is talking about it. We have been talking about it at CUUC and we are ready to explore new directions. And, we are delighted to have welcomed at least fourteen new families in the last year, most with young children!

Laying the Groundwork

This year in RE, we made some small shifts. In response to feedback about children not wanting to feel like they are in school Sunday mornings, we scheduled fewer classroom Sundays to make space for more worship and chapel, and activities with Social Justice teams and PlaceKeeping.

We have information from the Self-Assessment Committee to work with as we consider the congregation's interest and capacity to support RE into the future.

In preparation for the work ahead, the RE Council has been exploring a new leadership model with the fantastic support of Karen Dreher. Stay tuned for information about a RE Collaborative/Co-op that includes all RE families!

To support the RE team through this process of discernment, we will form a short-term REvision Advisory Group. Their role will be to read the RE report from the Self-Assessment Committee, participate in a couple REC meetings and the May 21st community conversation, share RE information whenever possible (e.g., during coffee hour conversations), and provide fresh perspectives. This will be a commitment of eight months with the Group meeting six to eight times.



Overview

Ways you can help shorten the hallway between RE and the sanctuary

Post in the general news area, not RE box, for more visibility

Upcoming Process - Your Participation is Key

Sunday, May 21st After Worship

The RE Council invites the congregation into a community visioning conversation to identify concrete ways forward that will be supported and sustainable. We will hear about the changing needs and availability of our families, explore ways to adapt our offerings, and welcome collaboration. Your input is important!

Please watch for additional information and join us May 21st for this important conversation!

Contact: Tracy Breneman (cuucwptracy@gmail.com) and Karen Dreher (KMDreher55@gmail.com)