

Committee/Group Name: Religious Exploration Committee

Purpose of Committee: To support and enhance the work of the Director of Religious Exploration and staff assistants in creating a learning experience for children and youth at UCE.

Members: Marilyn Gaa, Corrine Jackson (co-chairs) Audrey Brooks, Janet Polkovsky. Staff are Lauren Kay, DRE, Erica De Neuve (Children's assistant) Maria Jenkins, and Brandie Moller-Reid (Youth leaders)

Major Actions of 2017-18

- Action 1- "The Death of Sunday School..." was a document that the committee studied for a change of direction in programming.
- Action 2- A pilot experiment was launched, with consultation, to integrate the children and youth in church services, as recommended by the above mentioned document.
- Action 3- Youth attended two conferences, very productive
- Action 4- Social event for all ages, at Christmas.

Outcomes Achieved

- Consultation with the congregation confirmed that the "experiment" should continue, with children and youth attending the service twice a month, at the discretion of the DRE.
- The Children and Youth are increasing their connection to the adults and seniors in the congregation, making recruitment of volunteers somewhat easier.

Planned Actions for 2018-19

Continue to increase enrollment and engage with families, making use of the former nursery and upstairs loft as needed.

Resolve uncertainties regarding staffing.

Recommendations for Board Consideration (if any)

Continue to be alert and informed and responsive to changing needs in the RE program.

Submitted by: Marilyn Gaa