

DRE Report to the Board
December 2018

Dear members of the UUCSC Board,

I write this about to go on maternity leave - still at an undetermined date depending on my delivery. The last few weeks have felt like a bit of a scramble to get everything in place so that our program can run smoothly in my absence. Although some things have fallen into place last minute, they have indeed fallen into place. I'm grateful for the members of my RE Committee, who even at this extremely busy time of year, have stepped up in the ways I needed them to.

Our winter pageant is proceeding as planned on December 16, and I have been able to do some collaboration with Rev. DL, looking forward to our contemplative multi-gen Christmas Eve Eve morning service. Although the planning for this season is a bit unusual due to my impending leave, I have full faith that the quality of our experiences together will not be diminished.

As you already know, we've been making a slow transition away from traditional, structured lesson plans to a more free-flowing, "being" not "doing" approach in our RE time. The kids have responded very well, and our mornings now unfold in a fairly smooth, relaxed manner, with many of the kids not wanting to leave when their parents arrive to sign them out! We've enjoyed some really peaceful, harmonious times together on Sunday mornings, working together or "separately together" on different self-chosen projects, creating art, listening to stories, and playing together. As our outgoing teachers can attest to, it's been a very nourishing environment - for kids and adults!

To keep this going, I am planning to re-arrange our main classroom to support the idea of self-directed creativity. I've acquired a second hand activity table to serve as a base for our sculpture and building offerings, which multiple kids can gather around. I would like to put this in our main classroom, where the piano currently is. This will allow kids to remain in the classroom, listening to stories, etc, while participating in independent or collaborative building. To do this, we need to move the piano. I have been in touch with Facilities via Sally Barney but have not yet set a plan to make this happen. I understand that this is a very busy time of year. I'd like to open up the new table in January, so any assistance the Board could provide in removing and re-homing/donating the piano would be greatly appreciated.

I'm looking forward to a beautiful Advent season with you - in body and in spirit!

Blessings,
bethany