

DRE Report to the Board
November 2019

Dear Board members,

This past month, I have noticed very distinctly how relationships are beginning to forge and deepen for many of the families who have joined us over the last year or two.

Folks who have been coming regularly but weren't really involved are now cleaning up after coffee hour and making connections in the hallways after Worship. It's been a pleasure to see, and I wanted to share this with you to verify that *it's working*. All the effort you have each individually and collectively put into making UUCSC a welcoming place IS working, beautifully! The special guests we've welcomed downstairs in the last few months - amazing congregants who came to share music, poetry, and song with our kids - have enriched our program. The recent efforts by the Facilities Committee and other amazing volunteers to spruce up and organize our Nursery space and hallway area and the thoughtful, gentle outreach from the Membership Committee to our families are other examples of this, as well. It seems to me that families are feeling welcomed in all the right ways.

This past week, I had the pleasure of giving a tour of our RE space and program philosophies to a UU Divinity student. As I was able to talk through the story of who we are and how we put together our programming, it struck me how amazing the program is right now. When the Divinity student came to observe our RE time on Sunday morning, she remarked that it was incredible to see a room full of 15+ fully engaged and happy kids of all ages.

Sometimes when you are busy growing, you forget to take a look at where you are in relation to the whole, or bigger picture. This brief chance to reflect on our program really was a treat for me, and made me even more aware of the impact we are having on a weekly basis. To the kids who are eager to share about themselves and their lives when we do "Roses, Buds, and Thorns" (the RE version of Joys & Concerns!), to the adults coming downstairs for a day to share something important to them, to the families connecting in the Nursery and hallway afterwards, it's clear that UUCSC really is a special place for this community. What a gift!

With love and thanks,
Bethany

