September 2020

DRE Board Report

Dear Board members,

Hello to all of you! I’m so excited to be stepping into the role of DRE this year. And what a year to begin! I find myself thinking about the joyful faces of the kids in our RE program, wishing we could see and hug and gather together. I know we’ve all had these thoughts and are moving through the stages of grief at all that we’ve lost. So it’s my hope that we can continue to offer as much support, love and connection as possible, even when we’re apart.

The RE Committee held our first meeting of the year, with just three of us present (we may be recruiting new members for this committee at some point). From that and from my conversations with DL, we decided that we’d like to continue to offer virtual RE, live via zoom on Sunday mornings from 9-10am. To begin, we will bring in some of the elements of in-person RE that are grounding and meaningful, such as listening for the meditation bell, singing a song, reading a prayer and then sharing our Roses/Buds/Thorns together. We will add to this structure as needed and as we check in with the families who attend. For the second half of our hour, we will transition to a parent support group space for parents to share their joys and concerns together in a small group.

I will also be creating a short newsletter each week with other ways that families can connect to each other, their community, their faith and the larger congregation. We will put a link in the UUCSC weekly newsletter so anyone can click on the RE section to see what’s happening that week. To begin, I’d like to include a short activity (sometimes with a video of me doing the activity), a story or meditation, and some conversation starters that all relate to the theme of the month. To gather ideas, I’ve been reading over the RE sections of the Soul Matters website and will be getting a subscription to the Soulful Home. Also, I’ve joined several UU Religious Educators facebook pages to follow along with what other DREs are doing in these virtual times.

Plus, I will be calling each family in the next couple weeks to check in with how they’re feeling and what they need for support and connection.

For the future, I’d like to include a monthly activity that all ages are invited to participate in. These could be things like sharing pictures of our gardens, doing something nice for a neighbor, picking up trash in our neighborhood, or sending each other love notes.

My hope is that with a combination of virtual RE on Sunday mornings and a weekly newsletter of support and ideas for families, we will be able to offer some good points of connection and love.

I hope you are all well. Much love,

Lee Cowan