

2025-2026 UUCSC RE Annual Report

Numbers: We have 30 kids registered and an average of 15 participate each Sunday

Our goals for the RE program this year were as follows:

1. Run Coming of Age for 8th-9th graders
2. Run OWL for K-1st graders
3. Continue to promote connection across generations
4. Expand youth group offerings to meet the needs of middle/high schoolers
5. Invite more special guests from within and outside our congregation
6. Start planning for the Wunder Academy in January, to give more time for thorough planning and readiness
7. Hold regularly scheduled visioning sessions that include a variety of voices, perspectives and input and allow for people to plug in to help in different ways

We ran Coming of Age for our 8th and 9th graders, pairing them with mentors from the congregation, meeting monthly to discuss questions of faith and values and they are leading a service on June 7th.

We did not run OWL for K-1st grade, but we are planning that for the fall. We also plan to run OWL for 8th/9th graders next year. We had 4 people trained for middle/high school OWL from our congregation this year, so we are building our group of facilitators to offer this to our youth group.

We continue to promote connections across generations in many ways. Our congregational dinners, our multi-gen services, our Wunder Revels events in the backyard and congregants coming downstairs to join in our circle time and activities during service...these are all promoting connection. We decided this year to consistently have the kids start the service in the sanctuary on the first Sunday of every month. We would love to have more visits from congregants.

Also Danielle Bilecki hosting book club is another multi-gen success: everyone potlucks together and then Ezra Collins runs DnD for younger kids while adults have book club. We plan to expand this model next year for parent circles, movie nights and other evening events.

All Ages Choir is another new program success! Ami Pienknagura, our music director comes down almost every Sunday to lead a choir practice. It's mostly kids and parents and we have so much fun. Our goal is to consistently present songs when we are part of service in the sanctuary.

We have continued to offer DnD for our youth group, thanks to Andrew White. Coming

of Age was great for our older youth. We can definitely continue to improve our Sunday offerings for our youth group.

We began planning for the Wunder Academy at the end of January, which has given us a solid foundation. We have more leaders among our volunteers this year, with people in charge of different aspects of the program. We will also have the kids sign up ahead of time for what activities they want to do, so we know how many to plan for in each “apprenticeship path.”

Our visioning sessions started out strong, with two in the first half of the year. But then when Wunder Academy planning started, the visioning sessions fell away. Lee is excited to continue to expand and revise this new model of committee work that is not focused around monthly meetings, but rather on gathering input and signing up for tasks/roles. The congregation can support this by coming to our first visioning meeting in the fall.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Cowan, Director of Faith Exploration
May 25, 2026