

# Lifespan Faith Development Council

## Annual report – May 2017

### Purpose of the Council

The Lifespan Faith Development (LFD) Council provides oversight to the UUC LFD program, which is committed to creating an environment for volunteers, students, and their families that reflects our mission, Guidelines for Right Relations, our seven UU principles, and UUC covenants. Our goal is to support the development of each student to her or his fullest potential. LFD programs include: Children's RE classes; Adult RE classes; Middle School Youth Group; YRUU (High School Youth Group); YAC (Youth Adult Committee); Our Whole Lives (OWL); Coming of Age; and the UUC Library.

### Members

Jane Keppel-Benson (chair), Alan Moore, Karen Hager

### 2016-17 Goals

- Support of the Nursery, 5 CRE classes, Coming of Age, 2 OWL classes, Middle School Youth Group (MSYG), YRUU (high school youth group), and adult programming.
- Continued improvement on the move from committees to task teams.
- Continued improvement on the change to a more structured program format for YRUU.
- Increase prepping by staff of RE classes to as near 100% as possible.

### 2016-17 Achievements/Activities

- 127 children and youth are now registered in our program, occupying 181 activity slots.
- Dumbledore's Army conducted a full year of social action campaigns. Results included: 995 books donated to the Montgomery-Floyd Little Library program; \$3213 in food and cash donations for the Interfaith Food Pantry; 158 cold weather items donated to the Christmas Store; \$466 raised for the Ronald McDonald House; \$950 in item and cash donations for the Humane Society of Montgomery County; and the purchase of 7 orchard mason bee houses for UUC. DA also fought the Hatred Horcrux, learning how to react when observing hatred; and joining the Actively Caring for People movement.
- MSYG and the Gr. 2-3 class made blankets for Project Linus. MSYG also gave back to members of the congregation by making holiday gifts for our congregants, and relatives of congregants, who live at Warm Hearth.
- Fundraising activities were conducted throughout the year to send members of our YRUU group to Boston this summer. LFD's goal is to offer this trip every four years so that all high school students have the opportunity to learn more about UU history. 12 youth and 4 chaperones will travel in June.
- Coming of Age was tested as a full year RE program for Gr. 8, to provide a better bridge between RE and YRUU. Year 2 of the test will occur in 2017-18.
- K-1 and 4-5 OWL were both held this year. 13 children and their parents participated in K-1 OWL, while 15 children participated in 4-5 OWL. We also held an optional parents group for parents of 4-5 OWL students.
- Adult RE classes/events included Building Your Own Theology with Rev. Don, and a viewing and conversation on "Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War", a PBS documentary from Ken Burns about two historic UU figures.
- The Buddy Project paired 29 new adult and child Buddies this fall, helping to bridge the divide between the generations, and forging new relationships.

### Future goals

- Continue, and evaluate, the test of the Coming of Age program for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Create an online digital playbook for MSYG and YRUU to facilitate communication.
- Implement social justice work into the YRUU program. Continue to improve the structure of the program.
- If the budget allows for increased hours for the DLF, create and implement a full adult RE program.
- Major changes are planned for the 2017-18 middle school class, "Building Bridges". We are converting the lectures to video to break up the delivery in class and to make it easier to teach. We are also planning to implement a fun new component using Minecraft as a draw for youth. These changes are very exciting!

### Lessons learned

- We continue to improve on providing structure to the YRUU without infringing on youth empowerment, and are doing so with the support of youth. However, we are still asking our youth to bear too much of the work, and will spend part of the summer providing further structure and support to the program, in order to ease their responsibilities. The changes will also provide consistency from year to year.
- This lesson was learned in 2015-16 but a change will be implemented in 2017-18. Our revised middle school program "Building Bridges" has excellent content but has problems in delivery. The course is too heavy on lecture and very difficult to teach. See future goals above for changes planned for 2017-18.

### Budget and amount used

- Spent \$7164 of \$7750 budget as of end of May. We expect to spend all of our budget.