

# Lifespan Faith Development Committee

## Annual report – May 2019

### Members

Jane Keppel-Benson (chair), Karen Hager, open positions to be filled in 2019-20

### Purpose of the committee

The Lifespan Faith Development (LFD) Committee 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.

### 2018-19 achievements

- Registration is up 10% over last year. 134 children and youth are now registered in our program, occupying 175 activity slots.
- A new online teacher training video was created to shorten in-person training time needed, and to ensure teachers received the same information if they could not attend in person.
- A new registration process was created, allowing returning families to receive pre-filled registration forms, making registration and processing easier and quicker.
- Children's RE conducted the annual It's Scary to Be Hungry campaign for the Interfaith Food Pantry, raising \$2245 in cash and item donations for HSMC.
- Dumbledore's Army fought 7 real-world horcruxes this year. Among their results: hundreds of books donated to the Montgomery-Floyd Little Library Program; over 150 warm clothing items donated to the Christmas Store; \$592 raised for Ronald McDonald House Charities of SW VA; \$750 in cash and item donations for HSMC (Kitties won this year in our Puppies for Pennies / Koin for Kitties voting campaign); and \$164 raised to purchase motion-activated light switches for UUC.
- Coming of Age paired 5 8<sup>th</sup> graders with adult mentors for a year of discussion and introspection, marking the end of children's RE and bridging youth to YRUU.
- MSYG and YRUU 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.
- YRUU's fundraising efforts for the annual Mountain CON trip and 2021's planned trip to Boston included a book sale, online fundraiser, JEOPARDY! game, and the annual Coffeehouse. Over \$2000 was raised this year.
- YRUU continued social justice work and theology discussions in meetings this year. Plans are underway for 2019-20.
- K-1 and 4-5 OWL were held this year. 8-9 OWL will be held next year.
- The Buddy Project paired 23 new adult and child Buddies this fall, helping to bridge the divide between the generations, and forging new relationships.
- A full adult RE program was implemented and included the 6-session *America Inside Out with Katie Couric*; the monthly Social Justice Film Series; a 2-part workshop on the CSAI *The Corrupting of Our Democracy*; a workshop on the Wade Lecture; a discussion group on the UUA Common Read; Rev. Pam's *New (Or Not So New) to UU*; and Rev. Pam's *Owning Your Religious Past*. Plans for workshops on spiritual practices including UU Prayer Beads and Labyrinth Meditation Walks are in the works.

### Lessons learned

- We will be replacing our gr. 2-3 class in 2020-21, eliminating *Dr. Seuss and UU*, due to increasing concerns about racism inherent in his works.
- The change in our registration process will allow us to open fall registration much earlier this year, as it is much easier for staff use.
- Providing structure to YRUU without infringing on youth empowerment is vital for the program's success. We will continue to work on this.

### Expenses to date

- \$4985 has been spent to date, of our \$8175 budget, with the invoice for Mountain CON still outstanding. We are likely to spend 100% of our budget.

### How LFD works to further the mission and vision of UUC

The programs of LFD are designed to help our congregants, regardless of age, to grow in their personal spiritual and ethical journeys. We emphasize covenant and compassion in all programming. Through our liberal religious education, we help our children and youth to create a bridge between our religion and other religions in the NRV, and to discover how they can make the world a better place through their own actions.

Goals for next year to further UUC's mission and vision

- Children's RE will implement a world religion year for three of our RE classes, which will include middle school visits to other places of worship.
- YRUU will continue social justice work, forging stronger relationships with the adult social justice ministries of UUC.
- LFD will work with the Welcoming Congregation task force to present a class on *Transgender Inclusion in the Congregation*.