

UUFM Religious Education Program
2019-2020 Annual Report

The 2019-2020 year began with the congregation graciously allowing the Religious Education program to increase its budget by \$1500 in order to cover the potential costs of hosting an Our Whole Lives Elementary Facilitator training event for our region. Thankfully the June event was a smashing success. Not only did registrations cover all the expenses (therefore not touching a penny of that \$1500), but we were able to train six UUFM members and also net \$600 as fund-raising! The three-day event was held at the fellowship and attracted 20 participants representing 10 congregations from 4 states. They were served 200 meals (and snacks) by 8 volunteers and I only made one call to the plumber.

The summer quarter (June-August) saw more than a dozen volunteers leading our "UU World Travelers" program. Students went on a variety of real and virtual adventures including:

Bon Voyage Take-Apart party with Kim Martinson, Ellen Meyer, and Molly McGaughey

Patagonia region of Chile with Susan Adamchak

China with Elke Lorenz

Print making with Katie Kingery-Page and Lindsay Smith

Eukaryotic Cells with Taryn Warner

Creativity with Cathy Hedge

Potato Chip ChampionChip with Carrie and Austin Roberts

Canoeing with Dan Swenson and Larry Weaver

Mount Whitney with Clara and Mark Mayfield

Inside your body with Jennifer Thomsen

The Gambia with Lily Colburn

The fall quarter (September-November) focused on Unitarian Universalism and the seven principles using monthly thematic material and curriculum. Lily Colburn led the nursery students. Christie Launius and Susan Rensing led the Kindergarten-2nd grade class. Matt Sayre led the 3rd-6th grade class with Carolyn Ferguson assisting occasionally. Molly McGaughey led the 7th grade and up class. A highlight of the fall quarter was our annual Trunk or Treat event. This year we had a student-created "haunted house"!

The winter quarter (December-February) focused on our Jewish and Christian heritage. We also offered Our Whole Lives for Kindergarten and first grade students. Sarah Bridges, Jessica Sievers, and Marisa Larson rotated as leaders for the OWL class.

The spring quarter (March-May) was to focus on world religions, but covid-19 had other plans. We continue offer new ways to bring worship home but also recognize the need to just take a breather from the hectic at-home-full-time week.

A total of two dozen volunteers led programming for 59 different students throughout the year.

Sandy Nelson
Director of Religious Education