

## **REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL of FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA ROSA, CA**

**Date:** September 9, 2017      **Name of Commission/Committee/Group:** FUMC Preschool Board of Directors

**Members of the Commission/Committee/Group:** Jacob Faircloth (President, P); Beth Dadko (Vice President, P); Cheryl McBride (Secretary, P); Dick Gearhart (Treasurer, C); Melanie Charter (P,C); Karen Eischen (C); Nancy Harvey (C); Donna Weaver(C), Cathy Wieschendorff (C). Diane Wikse, Director.

**Meetings are held:** On the second Wednesday of the month, at 7pm in the Susanna Wesley House.

**Purpose of the Commission/Committee/Group:** (SHIFT Areas: # 1: "From Fellowship to Hospitality," and #4: "From Serve Us to Service.")

- FUMC Preschool Board oversees all policies and the fiscal management of the Preschool.
- FUMC Preschool Board also directs, supports, collaborates with, and supervises the Director of the Preschool who oversees the day-to-day operations of the school.

### **How does the purpose help fulfill the mission of FUMC?**

Our teachers welcome the children with Christian love, respect, and dignity. We also welcome families of all different backgrounds, we offer scholarships, and we accept state-funding for some students. We are dedicated to keeping the best teacher/child ratios for a quality educational environment. CA Licensing requires 1:12 student-teacher ratios. We offer 1:6 to 1:8 ratios to ensure that children receive the loving care they need.

### **What are your activities/ programs/ ministries/ accomplishments for the last year?**

Our FUMC Preschool Board has overseen the following at the Preschool:

- We served 57 children over the past year, from 2 part days/week to 5 full days/week.
- Open from 7am-6pm M-F (closing at 5:30pm on Tuesdays), we taught and cared for 20-35 children a day throughout the year. [We closed one week in August for cleaning and preparations, and 7 days for Christmas break.]
- We practiced Christian fellowship in our daily routines: praying before snack/lunch, sharing what we are thankful for, and breaking bread together.
- We helped children learn to treat one another with respect and to be good helpers.
- We sang together twice a week with Darlene Bradley throughout the year, including "God songs" each time, and we sang two concerts under her direction: Christmas Concert and Spring Concert.
- We held Vacation Bible School (VBS) adapted by our teachers for the children, ages 2-5.
- We offered traditional preschool curriculum (e.g., seasons, transportation, community workers, ocean/luau, dinosaurs, etc.) as well as science activities, gardening, literacy development activities and the "Handwriting Without Tears" writing curriculum for school preparation.
- Shirley Cheal held Art Classes for our children and then displayed the beautiful art in the FUMC Library for everyone all to enjoy!
- Our Preschool Board oversaw our major annual fundraiser, the Pasta Dinner and Silent Auction.

### **What are your goals and plans for the next year?**

We are committed to increasing the staff wages, as minimum wage increases over the next 5 years. And we'll consider capital upgrades that will need to be made over this time, too.

### **What goals or benchmarks have you set to measure success/effectiveness?**

We know we are doing all right when families recommend us and when they return to enroll younger siblings!

Diane Wikse, Director,  
FUMC Preschool & Child Care Center