

Reflective Conversations Team

Prepared by Jim Lee, Chair, April 2018

The Reflective Conversations (RC) process was created at the behest of the Board of Trustees to:

- Gather reflective feedback regarding Sunday Worship and Program Ministries for the ministers, staff and or lay program leaders to use in reflection and consideration of ways to improve their respective offerings.
- Give members of the Congregation an opportunity to be heard in a safe environment.
- Model healthy communication within the Congregation.
- Affect the culture of the Congregation using reflection and listening as a model.

In the Fall of the 2017-2018 calendar year, the Board of Trustees, Interim Senior Minister Rev. Doug Wadkins, and staff chose to continue the Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) ministry conversations. With Rev. Cassandra Hartley, Assistant Minister for Spiritual Growth & Development, and the SGD Committee, we agreed to focus on the Coming of Age and Adult SGD programs. We worked with leaders of the programs to establish questions and processes for performing the Reflective Conversations.

At the time of preparing this report, 15 April 18, we have held one RC, which was with the youth in 10th-12th grade and focused on their perspectives regarding participating in the Coming of Age program. SGD staff were present for the conversation and a detailed report was subsequently provided. A summary report will be provided to the Board and Congregation in June 2018. We scheduled two other RCS, one for Adult SGD class participants and one for Coming of Age parents in Spring 2018, but they were cancelled as we could not obtain more than two participants in either RC. We plan to try again in the Fall of 2018 and invite participants in the 2017-2018 Adult SGD and Coming of Age programs. We will also work to understand how we might make participation more convenient for congregants.

More information regarding Reflective Conversations is available at <http://uuaa.org/index.php/about-us/lay-leadership/reflective-conversations> . A fact sheet and lovely photo of our participants are also available there. Our participants this year included: Dixie Hibner; Becky Hoort; Jim Lee, Chair; Carolyn Madden; Tricia Mooney, Board Liaison; Catherine Olson; and, Ginny Preuss. If our ministry is of interest to you please let us know at reflectiveconversations@uuaa.org - we're happy to listen, talk and welcome volunteers.