

Chalice Circles Annual Report – 2018-19

Submitted by Chair Karen Hale

The Chalice Circle program has proven vital to connecting people in this large congregation through small group ministry. The program provides 14 facilitated sessions to small groups (8-10 members) from October-May that offer opportunities to grow spiritually, connect as individuals, and build beloved community within the circles and within the congregation. The program is in its 13th year.

1. Five Chalice Circles were offered. Participation included 45 participants plus 10 facilitators. Each Chalice Circle completed a Service Project for the congregation.
2. One circle was dedicated to a 20s/30s Circle to take advantage of two new enthusiastic leaders who wanted to use this format to engage their peers.
3. Three One-Time Chalice Circles were offered and proved very popular. These topics used the Soul Matters material and coincided with the Worship themes of the month.
4. We continue to offer Newcomers Circles. We plan to offer these circles in a cadence with the timing when Newcomers usually arrive.
5. Facilitator training was held in September.
6. The Steering Committee is looking at offering facilitator training to other lay group leaders, such as men's groups and women's groups.
7. Investiture of facilitators was held in November in recognition of their lay leadership role.

We successfully recruited new facilitators and Steering Committee members this year. Continued success depends on attracting and training committed volunteers and evolving to meet the needs of the congregation. The number and type of chalice circles offered each year is based on the number of volunteer facilitators.

The steering committee is comprised of the chair, Karen Hale, Ginny Preuss (Registration), Cathy Olson (Newcomers Circle), Rich Donner (Evaluation), Shelley Stoll (Service Projects), Nicki Scholtz (Writing Team) and Lara Cooper (member at large).