

Children's Religious Education (CRE) Committee

I. Purpose

- CRE seeks to deepen the spiritual lives of our young members, to help them through our educational program and their relationships with others in the meeting, and to build their sense of spiritual wonder.
- In order to foster spiritual depth in our young people CRE is responsible for planning and implementing an educational program for the Meeting's children and young people. We call this program First Day School (FDS). Though our children range in age at this time CRE has decided to adopt a one room schoolhouse approach. The exception to this that the babies and toddlers have a safe space available for them to play in a supported and supervised manner.
- The FDS is a program that runs during the academic year. There is no programming in the summer, although organized child care can be provided as needed.
- To help provide a consistent environment for the children. Committee members often do the teaching for the first semester of the First Day School; roughly from September to December. Then from January to June Committee members involve other adults and teachers to work with the children. Each year the CRE committee sets a theme upon which the curriculum and lessons are centered.
- CRE's purpose is to also foster and deepen the spiritual lives of families, parents, and caregivers. CRE is responsible for communicating with the parents and caregivers the logistics of our First Day School program. More importantly, CRE consciously opens conversations and communications with parents about how their children and young people are feeling about FDS. Discussions and discernment are regularly held with parents and caregivers about how their children and young people can best engage in their own spiritual growth.

II. Responsibilities

- Provide care and religious education for the young people of our Meeting.
- Attend committee meetings as needed.
- Share in planning and teaching age appropriate lessons for the young people, lessons that are interactive and engaging.
- Inspire examination of our beliefs and practices as they relate to young people
- Acquaint our young people and ourselves with Quaker faith and practice --our origins and history as well as our modern testimonies.
- Respond to the needs of our young people and make their presence in our Meeting a welcome experience.
- Provide intergenerational activities and opportunities for closer connections between families with children and other members / attendees of Meeting.
- Work closely with other committees concerning care of children and young people.
- Train, hire and manage childcare providers to assure consistent safe, loving, creative and attentive childcare.

- Plan for special events such as plays, pageants, quarterly gatherings, and service projects.
- Purchase (reimbursement provided) and bring snack for FDS children and young people.
- Write a state of society document each year.
- Give reports as needed to Business Meeting.
- Work with other committees in our Meeting in order to communicate financial needs of the FDS program and childcare expenses.
- Revise or re-approve this document in November of each year so it is up-to-date when Gifts and Service begins its work.

III. Number of Members

- Ideal number is 6 committee members.
- Minimum is 4 people.

IV. Desirable Qualifications

- Enjoy being around children and young people; have a desire to work with them.
- Physically able to supervise and watch children and young people.
- Be patient, appropriate, and safe with children and young people.
- Be able to communicate with children and young people.
- Be willing to plan and teach a lesson (One does not need to be a professional teacher, there is access to a library of materials and support is always available in this area).
- Ability to communicate with other committee members.
- Ability to communicate with parents.

V. Time Commitment

- Attend Committee meetings as needed; generally once a month.
- Assist several times each year with FDS. FDS is scheduled for twice each month during the academic year. With set up and clean up, it's helpful to plan on an hour and half for each FDS class. Committee members do not need to assist with every FDS class; this is a shared responsibility rotated among the committee members and other Meeting members and attenders.
- There are times when the committee must meet more often, typically when preparing for the Christmas pageant or another larger event.
- The committee often uses email to organize for FDS and other events, so staying engaged and informed is important. .

VI. Last Revision: January 31, 2018.