Ministry of Faith Development

The Ministry of Faith Development is responsible for Faith Formation and Christian Education for all ages. As our new mission statement states: “We Learn, We Pray, We Play”.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has presented significant challenges to education programs of all types, including our Christian Education program at CUCCNM. Like so many other educators around the world, we found our plans thrown into chaos in March and we scrambled to find a new path forward to complete the school year. We figured out how to bake remotely, yet together, during Sunday School on Zoom. We played video games on Google Meets for youth group. Alanna, our wonderful CE Director, delivered take home church activities to each family every week. Easter activities included a virtual Easter egg hunt and a Lego building contest.

Our summer activities also had to be adjusted for COVID. Alanna delivered take home church activities to each family once a month. We made the sad decision to cancel Vacation Bible School and offered two socially distanced socials which were outdoor movie nights on the church lawn in its place. The camp scholarship silent auction was held virtually on Facebook. Proceeds were given as a donation to United Church Camps, Inc. to support them during this difficult year in which all of their programming had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Six confirmands started their confirmation journeys. Pastor Dave, Alanna and the confirmands meet weekly for confirmation, sometimes on Zoom and sometimes at church with masks and social distancing. Mentors join in once a month. A highlight of the summer was a confirmation class trip to Marl Lake for a day of fun.

A dedicated group of teachers and helpers kicked off the Sunday School year on September 13th. We were blessed to see each other in person during outdoor service for the first two weeks of Sunday School. We chose to switch back to virtual Sunday School in October. We plan to handle the rest of 2020 with the same approach as we have used since March: to continue our usual programming as much as possible but in new and novel ways. We are grateful for the support and patience of our wonderful families as we navigate a new normal.

We are looking for some fresh faces to help us achieve our mission in both traditional and new ways. We have opportunities that require as little as one hour of your time to make a difference.

1) **Sunday School Teacher:** Teach a Sunday School class approximately once per month from online curriculum. Bible stories are chosen by our teaching team. Multiple options are offered in the curriculum to allow teachers options. There are teacher opportunities with youth of all ages.

2) **Sunday School or Youth Group Helper:** Be an extra set of hands in a Sunday School classroom or at Youth Group. No prep required. This is still needed when we meet virtually due to Safe Sanctuary guidelines.

3) **MoFD Board Members:** Participate in quarterly ministry meetings to plan the MoFD calendar and determine volunteer needs. Several of our board members have been serving for many years and are ready to try other things.