

2021 Formation Committee Annual Report

This was another year of minimal activity for the Formation Committee—though not for lack of effort or want. With Manitoba's fluctuating pandemic restrictions, as well as a shortage of Sunday School teachers, our committee opted to find simple ways to stay connected with the children and teens in our congregation. In the early winter and at Easter, we prepared take-home crafts for families with school-aged children. In September, we were fortunate to be able mark Education Sunday with an in-person service, complete with balloons and chocolate bars for our students. Members of our church community also offered encouraging words for our Sunday school children, on the themes of learning and growing.

Our committee also explored what it would be like to include an activity table with colouring books and snacks at the back of the sanctuary for children on Sunday mornings for several weeks this autumn. Seeing as how we were not holding Sunday school classes in the fall, our thinking behind the activity table was that children would be able to occupy themselves during the service with creative tasks, while also offering their parents a chance to enjoy worship a little more freely. This more or less worked well for the time it was offered, though in the future we would more outwardly engage adult members of our congregation to sit and colour with the children, so as to develop stronger intergenerational connections.

With the late autumn lull in Covid-19 cases and restrictions somewhat eased, Margruite Krahn and Karen Martens thoughtfully and creatively engaged our church community's children in preparing for advent with crafts, stories, and opportunities for them to participate in the advent services. We are grateful for Margruite and Karen's willingness, time, and energy.

We have a few plans in place for our community's young people in 2022 around the winter worship theme of 'senses'. It is our hope that we will be able to gather safely again in the not too distant future, and that we will continue to find creative ways of connecting across generations as an AMC community.

Respectfully submitted by Susie Fisher

16 January 2022