

2019 Camp Report

This past summer at Camp was one of new life, success, growth, and challenges. This was our first summer where all of the camping program was shared with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Arizona. We called this joint venture DUCC (Disciples of Christ, United Church of Christ Church Camp. The big excitement for DUCC was just seeing the large numbers of kids at camp. Watching kids meet each other, share camp traditions, grow in faith, and just playing with each other was a great joy and source of hope. This new life for both camping programs was a sigh of relief for many participants in the camping program. Many campers shared that they loved learning new songs, new ways of doing camp, and just enjoyed being at camp with their new friends.

The numbers are a sign of success and growth.

2019 Camp by the Numbers

- We welcomed 187 people to camp, including campers, counselors, coordinators, and directors.
- Sprouts Camp for 1st and 2nd graders welcomed 16 campers
- Pines Camp for 3rd-5th graders welcomed 40 campers
- Middle School Camp welcomed 42 campers
- High School Camp welcomed 21 campers
- Youth Leadership Team was comprised of 9 high schoolers from both UCC and DOC congregations
- 67 campers were UCC, 48 were DOC, and 13 were Presbyterian (from Southside Presbyterian in Tucson)
- 30 adults took leadership roles, mentored children, provided care, and got messy at camp. 15 adults were Disciples, 13 were UCC and 2 were Presbyterian.
- We ended camp with a surplus of \$7,791

With these successes came many challenges. Some were overcome by time and relationship building, others required us to revise and rewrite our policies and procedures. Some of the challenges came from our scheduling. With the joy of doubling camp sizes, came the realization that camp days flow differently with larger groups of people! The joy of many campers threw off the schedule! There were challenges that had us looking at our camp traditions of the past, and how do we create new traditions for our future. There were challenges with an understanding of how DUCC would work, are we doing things the Disciples way or the UCC way? And challenges in dealing with how do we handle emergency situations, disciplinary situations, and how do we keep all campers safe? Because of these challenges, new policies and procedures were created.

As DUCC 2020 approaches, our pre-camp emphasis is finding and recruiting the best adults possible and providing them with the best training possible. We are requiring more training from our adults and encouraging the participation of more clergy in camp.

Submitted by Rev. Jay Deskins