



Simsbury United Methodist Church
2016 - 2017 Charge Conference Report
Monday, December 5, 2016, 7:30 pm

Little Lambs & Ivy (LLI)

By Jim Ray
Chairperson



Little Lambs and Ivy is all about the children with the mission to support and supplement the family by providing a safe, clean, healthy, and loving environment. We responsibly nurture each child toward a positive self-image and respect for others by teaching and modeling sound Christian values. The basic principles we state to the parents are:

- **We will treat your child as a precious, unique individual.**
- **We will work to build an alliance with you, the parent.**
- **We will encourage your child's physical, emotional and intellectual growth.**
- **We will teach and model Christian values.**

During 2016, LLI continued in this mission and had a great year in all respects. The following summarize some of the key points:

- **Overall enrollment has always had gains and losses, but this year there was even more change with 24 losses during the summer. Most were due to aging out of the program, but many of the others were being lost to the free care provided by the magnet schools.**
- **This loss trend to magnet schools is not new, but it is the hardest to recover as it is the older children who leave. In the past, LLI started with an infant and kept them until they aged out. Now with losing them early, it is much harder to find older children to fill in for these losses in those age groups.**
- **As a result of the losses, LLI undertook a significant re-certification of rooms to allow more to be used for infants. The downside of having more infants is that the state requires a higher teacher ratio along with more supplies needed. This relates to increased expenses for the same number of children.**

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

- In the renovation of the Creative Cove room for certification, a major expense occurred due to the finding of lead paint on the furnace room door and frame. This required a lead paint consultant to handle the myriad of required paperwork and acceptances by multiple municipal and state organizations along with a certified contractor to do the work. The result was an expense exceeding \$13,000 just for this effort which was over and above the other requirements - most significant being to enclose all the radiator pipes that were exposed. On a positive note, it is that is now a very nice room for LLI and the church and no more lead paint!
- The annual Halloween party for the children and families continues to be one of the biggest events of the year with filling Wesley Hall with lots of food, laughter and songs.
- LLI continued to support church activities and charitable giving and including \$250 monthly support for the Ghana school mission.
- LLI children participate in the SUMC Vacation Bible School each year and in Dorothy Cowles Music Makers group.
- LLI hosted the SUMC Easter Bunny Breakfast which also included Easter crafts, an Easter egg hunt and a visit by the Easter bunny.
- Camp Little Lambs completed its 15th successful season for 4/5 year olds.
- The LLI Art Show continues to be a great success for sharing the artistic talents of the children with their families and SUMC. Some of the group artwork has now been made into cards for the SUMC card ministry with the proceeds used for supporting SUMC efforts.
- LLI passed its annual State inspection with only minor follow-ups.