

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday May 15, 2022

11:30 a.m. Meeting after Worship Service

Action Items:

- *Amy and Barb will update the Social Justice Priorities template sometime after the meeting.*
- *Harriet will talk to ARE about possible dates for "Theirs is the Kingdom" showing*
- *Miriam will talk to the Twisted Sisters and let us know when they would like to have their Tea Party*
- *Barb will write to the BOT to let them know about our plans for a Blood Drive on July 28th*
- *Amy will look into grant possibilities for AED's for UCF*
- *Barb will do the 5th Sunday talk about the Carolina Abortion Fund or find someone to do it*

PRESENT: Harriet Altman, Martha Kenworthy, Miriam Green, Mary Anna Newman, Linda Rudd, Tom Wentworth, Amy Jones, Barb Thomas

1. **Welcome and introductions** – Amy checked on mask wearing and everyone agreed we could go without
2. **UCF Vision Statement, SA Mission Statement and 2021-2022 SA Goals** – These were printed on the back of the agenda and everyone was reminded to review them.
3. **Approval of February 24, 2022 Minutes** - Accepted as written
4. **Old Business and Updates**
 - **Social Action Template** – Amy reminded everyone about the Social Action Priorities spread sheet that was created from our Constructive Conversations process last year. The Co-chairs have been updating it after each meeting. It includes action items that we are working on or hope to work on for each priority. She mentioned that in the light of the leaked Supreme Court decision on abortion, we need to add Women's Reproductive rights to the spreadsheet. The group decided to put it under the Health Care priority – *Amy and Barb will update the template sometime after the meeting.*
 - **Anti-racism**
 - Racial Justice Group – Susan Roberts and Penny Hooper who head up this group could not be at the meeting but Susan sent the following report:
 - We had a great turnout from UCF for the 8th Principal webinar on April 3 that was sponsored by UUJNC. Ten of us attended. The webinar featured Paula Cole Jones who first introduced the 8th Principal and speakers from two congregations that recently approved the 8th Principal. Each speaker provided information on her congregation's process and followed up with links to the materials that they used. Neither of these two speakers had felt the need for a long, drawn-out process.
 - At our next Racial Justice meeting on June 16 at 7 pm, we will discuss the timeline and process for the adoption of the 8th Principal, UU the Vote and Voter Registration and results of the Midterm primaries.
 - Anti-racism reading group (ARRG)—Adult RE – Sally Davis couldn't be there
 - The group meets every other month
 - May 19th 7:00 PM Water Dancer discussion

- There was a discussion about how to inform more of our congregation (that have not participated in the ARRG) with the concept of systemic racism. It was suggested that we ask the ARRG members to recommend a few of the books they have read for the congregation to choose from that will help them understand why we are seeking to explore and adopt the 8th Principle
- **“Theirs is the Kingdom” screening** – Harriet talked about this film which is about a church in Asheville that does a lot of work with the homeless. They had an artist paint a fresco with the faces of these homeless people. The film is about this process and the stories of the people. It costs about \$100. *Harriet will talk to ARE about possible dates. We will advertise the showing in the community.*
- **Twisted Sisters Tea Party** – Miriam talked about all the work this group did to help us with our holiday gift bags. Twisted Sisters meet at the Senior Center on Thursdays. Miriam suggested that we offer a party in our Social Hall on a Thursday (maybe in June?). *Miriam will talk to them and let us know when they want to do it.*
- **Welcoming Congregation Renewal** – Amy discussed the work of this group which consists of Amy, Barb, Marty Newcomb and Rev. Michelle. Tom Wentworth is serving as liaison with the Worship Committee. We need to finish the renewal process by February 2023 but we will need to continue the process every year into the future. It is not difficult. There are 5 requirements, the first of which was completed in 2006. The other 4 are listed below:
 - Days of Observance – We must recognize at least 6 during the year
 - March 31—Trans Day of Visibility – already done)
 - June—Pride Month (Pulse (6/12) and Stonewall (6/28) will be highlighted
 - October 11 – National Coming Out Day
 - November 20 – Transgender Day of Remembrance
 - December 1 – World Aids Day
 - Worship Services – We must hold two per year
 - April 24-- “On Radical Welcome” by Rev. Michelle (already done)
 - June 19 – Juneteenth Service on Intersectionality Race/LGBTQ+
 - October – LGBTQ history month We will do another service
 - Religious Education – We must do one during the year
 - March 15th Combatting Anti-Trans legislation 101 – several members attended
 - June 14th UU Justice NC & SC UUJM – Transgender Justice and Inclusion – we will publicize this event and hope to get a good turnout from our congregation. We talked about possibly attending this event together at the church
 - August – Transgender Inclusion in Congregations course – We have already bought this course and can use it as many times as we wish. The WCR group is currently watching the six videos and trying to find the best way to offer the class. They are hoping to start it in late August or early September
 - Welcoming Project – We must do one per year – it can be financial or other support for LGBTQ groups. We have been doing this for many years –
 - We have donated financially to Equality NC and the Jesse Peal LGBTQ Center at ECU and will continue to give to LGBTQ advocacy causes
 - Crystal Coast Proud is a new local organization and we have offered that they can meet in our church
 - Rev. Michelle has asked if we would be interested in going to an LGBTQ event during Pride month– there is a Onslow County “One Community” Pride Festival in Jacksonville

on June 4th. <https://allevents.in/jacksonville/onslow-county-one-community-pride-festival/10000303768859837>. We will publicize this in the newsletter to see if there is interest and the group agreed to become a sponsor for the event for \$50.

- **Service Days**—The group brainstormed ways we could sponsor a Day of Service in the community. The whole congregation would be invited to these work days
 - Ideas
 - Blood Drive (discussed later)
 - Hope Mission meals – we could help serve on whatever schedule we think is feasible
 - Clean Sweep or other beach cleanups
 - Miriam suggested Sierra Club and Coastal Federation
 - Food Waste and Recovery – helping with picking up at collection sites
 - Storehouse Food Pantry – contact the coordinator to see if she needs help
 - Pantry by the road – possibly have a food pantry that people could take food from on our corner – we will look into this
- **Green Sanctuary** - Linda Rudd reported on all the wonderful work the Green Sanctuary Committee is doing. Her report is attached with these minutes.
- **Request to BOT to remove name of committee from Bylaws** – The Leadership Council has sent a request to the BOT to add a motion to the Annual Meeting ballot to remove the list of standing committees from the Bylaws. The Annual Meeting is on June 12th. If this is approved by the congregation, then the Social Action committee will be changed to the Social Justice Committee and all references to Social Action in the Policy Manual will be changed to Social Justice. Revise policy manual references to Social Action to Social Justice
- **FY2022-2023 Budget request submitted** – The Finance Committee has asked all the committees to review their budget requests to see if they can cut anything to help balance the budget. Amy, Harriet and Barb reviewed the budget and made the following potential changes
 - Decrease Hope Mission donation from \$250 to \$100
 - Decrease Green Sanctuary budget from \$300 to \$50 (this was GS' decision)
 - Decrease the Family Promise donation from \$1000 to \$500 and have a 5th Sunday collection to fund our commitment to Family Promise
 - This resulted in a \$900 decrease in our budget request

5. New Business

- **Final budget allocations for FY2021-2022** – Barb and Amy reviewed the decisions for distribution of funds that were allocated for this year. The group agreed with the decisions.
- **Red Cross blood drive/Possible grant for AED**
 - Barb met with Kristin Willis of the Red Cross who approved our Fellowship Hall space for a blood drive
 - We were given several dates to choose from – the group selected July 28th
 - We will need 2-4 volunteers to work at the drive and also to get a list of potential blood donors from our congregation
 - If we get at least 30 donations in one drive, we will get \$10 per donation to spend on something for our church
 - *Barb will write to the BOT to let them know about our plans*
 - *Amy is looking into grant possibilities for getting AED's and will let us know if she finds anything*

- Social Action leadership transition – Barb announced sadly that Amy Jones is stepping down as Co-Chair at the end of this fiscal year. Her work with the CLTRA is taking a lot more of her time. Amy and Barb both said how much they have enjoyed working together. Happily, Harriet Altman has agreed to Co-chair with Barb starting July 1.

6. 5th Sundays 2021-2022

- August 29, 2021 Carteret Long Term Recovery Alliance---\$1593.56
- October 31, 2021 Holiday Giving - \$2726.80
- January, 2022 Food Banks--\$1540.08
- May, 2022 NAACP and Citizens for Diversity in Education Scholarships
- **FY 2022-2023** – Barb talked with Jo Ellen about how we will handle 5th Sunday collections in the new fiscal year. Starting with the July 2022 5th Sunday, we will collect checks or cash donations specifically designated for 5th Sunday throughout the month, but undesignated plate collections will only go to the 5th Sunday cause on the last Sunday of the month.
- Future 5th Sunday collection possibilities FY 2022-23:
 - Carolina Abortion Fund
 - Planned Parenthood
 - Environmental Justice Groups (Coastal Federation, Interfaith Powe and Light, etc)
- July 2022 – the group voted to give to Carolina Abortion Fund – *Barb will do the talk about it or find someone to do it* <https://www.carolinaabortionfund.org/>
- October 2022 – Holiday Giving
- January 2023 - ?Family Promise
- April 2023 - ?Environmental Justice group (Earth month)

Next meeting will be in August – Date and time –TBD