

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Sunday, November 13, 2022

11:45 am following Worship Service – Room 7, SBW BLDG.

PRESENT: Amy Jones, Susan Fetzer, Linda Rudd, Lauren Donnachie, Susan Roberts, Miriam Green, Mary Anna Newman, Barb Thomas, Harriet Altman, Rev. Micah Ma

1. **Welcome and Meeting facilitated by Barb Thomas**
2. **Acknowledgement of Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Goals** previously reviewed by members of the committee.
3. **Approval of August 28, 2022 minutes** – the Minutes were accepted as written.
4. **Old Business and Updates**
 - **Social Justice Priorities Template** - updated
 - **Anti-Racism Work Update**– Susan Roberts
 - Activities after Christmas include the following:
 1. There will be an MLK service in January,
 2. We will assist with MLK luncheon (more info to follow)
 3. February is Black history month so there will be 3 weeks of films with a panel following the last film.
 4. UJMNMC has been hosting a monthly meeting for leaders that are working on implementing the 8th principal in their fellowship.
 5. There will be a monthly anti-racism column in the Coastline.
 6. Susan Fetzer brought to our attention that the UUA is in the process of possibly revising Article II of the UUA Bylaws, Principles and Purposes. These changes will be finalized at the 2024 GA. Paula Cole Jones is involved in working on this and is the person who originally drafted the 8th Principle. The Principles may no longer be listed as they are now, but incorporated into Article II. To read more about this, here is the link:
<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/charge>
And this is a link to the Southern Regional UUA newsletter with info as well:
<https://us16.campaign-archive.com/?u=da5be642710e23e8410015108&id=b0c523a04e>
 7. Anti-Racism Reading group – Due to lower participation, they may end this for now, but keep congregation informed of recommended books.
 - **Theirs is the kingdom** – Harriet Altman
 - Film was shown on evening of November 2. 20 People attended, including 4 guests from the community. A discussion followed, and a guest speaker, Lee Stiles, shared his “story” and his work.
 - **Welcoming congregation** – Amy Jones
 1. Rev. Micah led a COMING OUT DAY SERVICE on October 9.
 2. PROGRESS FLAG CONGREGATIONAL DISCUSSION – followed October 9 service re: hanging flag outside church.
 - Susan Fetzer suggested that the flag be displayed inside initially to allow more conversation and understanding. Monday, November 14 at 10:00am,

Amy, Harriet, Nan Reed, Susan Roberts, and Miriam Green will meet to discuss the appropriate place to display it. In addition, there will be information provided to the members for further education.

***Goal is to hang flag outside by February or March for renewal of Welcoming Congregation.

3. There have been 5 days of observance – Different formats used – i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Service, Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20) in the Newsletter.
 4. UUA Transgender Remembrance Service is offered On-Line, Friday, Nov. 18th 4pm EST, Hosted by Rev. Michael Crumpler, UUA LGTBQ and Multicultural Programs Director. Here is the link:
<https://www.uuclb.org/events/uua-transgender-remembrance-service-on-line-1pm-pst-4pm-est-friday/>
 5. We are recognizing World Aids Day – Dec. 1
 6. Trans-inclusion class was completed with 21 people participating. We plan to offer it again next year.
 7. As of December 1, we will have completed requirements for Welcoming Congregational Renewal.
- **Service Days –**
 1. Blood Drive – Barb. Nov. 30; So far we only have 10 or 11 signed up. Red Cross said if we don't have enough a few days prior they will cancel; We discussed the need for Social Media coverage and Public Radio (Harriet); Amy Jones, Joan Burton, Susan Roberts, Hilary Schultz have agreed to assist. We need a total of 8 volunteers. people
 2. Hope Mission – Harriet; We will start in January and ask John with Hope Mission what days are available. We will make a schedule for every two months, and will put it in the newsletter for volunteers.
 3. Meals on Wheels – Harriet; The phone numbers will be provided in the Newsletter for those interested in volunteering.
 - **Green Sanctuary –** (Linda) – She asked for suggestions for guest speakers. Judd Kenworthy was suggested. Also the film Tidal Alert will be shown on January 28 with a panel discussion following it and lunch.
(Barb pointed out that we do need to have activities on evenings besides Wednesday)
 - **Food Collection –** Miriam; Basket has been filling up, and Miriam has been taking to Storehouse. Also Daryl is applying for another grant for the Little Free Pantry. Lauren pointed out they accept and need personal items and pet food also.; . Amy provided information from Eastern Carolina Council; if receipts can be provided and you are over 60, you can get reimbursed for groceries.
 - **Postcard project –** Barb; This was again, a success – 980 postcards were confirmed completed and mailed. Postcards sent to people of color in NC to get out the vote.
 - **Yard signs/bumper stickers –** Harriet; Side With Love signs were priced at approximately \$20 and less if purchased in quantity. Bumper stickers will also be priced that include Side With Love logo and UCF.

5. New Business

- **Holiday giving** – Miriam and Susan; \$2035 was raised with our 5th Sunday collection;
 - a. Gift bags - After total figures from Hope Mission (Harriet) and Beachhouse (Karen Baggott) \$20 giftcards can be purchased; Twisted Sisters are knitting slippers and other items; Congregation will bring items for oral care and unisex socks. (Assembly on December 11 following service)
 - b. Money will also go to adopting a UCF family and children on the Angel Tree.
 - c. Empower Caroling Party – Friday December 9 – we will be there at 12:15 pm for setup; 25 gift bags are needed; We will meet at church initially prior to going to Empower. Will ask congregation to bring snacks.
- **MLK Birthday celebration** – Barb; UCF will serve lunch to 300 people; Barb will put in the newsletter recruiting volunteers; Sharon Harker will be keynote speaker;
- **Valentine’s Day Dinner for Lovers** -this was tabled due to Meganne’s absence
- **Recovery support group** – Rev.Micah is willing to lead and we will possibly ask Holly Rogers if she’s interested.
- **Sharing the Plate** – Rev. Micah and Susan F.; some other congregations are using this method instead of 5th Sunday; every month half of undesignated funds go to UCF and half to the designated cause; We will start in April if Finance committee approves. One cause every two months. We will follow-up in February.
- **Leandro films** – Barb; Planning to show these four short films on an evening in January, with Meganne possibly giving an overview before the films. Barb, Amy, Jo Ellen, and Harriet will also help plan. Further information in recent NC Policy Watch; . We will open this up to the community.
- **Coat for kids** – Barb; This was discussed with Jennifer Johnson; This is an ongoing project in the winter. We will put out a bin to collect coats in the Social Hall in December, January and February.
- **Homeless Veterans** – Harriet; Martha Kenworthy would like to explore the option of support for them. We can reach out to Geno, who leads a community group that works to help the homeless, to see what we can find out.
- **Domestic Violence luncheon** – Harriet; There are a couple of empty seats available for the table. This will be announced in The Wave.

6. 5th Sundays

- May 29, 2022 NAACP and CDE Scholarships - \$1200
- July 31st, 2022 Carolina Abortion Fund
- October 30, 2022 Holiday Giving
- January 29, 2023 Family Promise
- April 30, 2023

Next meeting in February TBA

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Altman

ACTION ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP:

- *Harriet - Blood Drive; Share on Social media and Public Radio; volunteer recruitment*
- *Harriet - Hope Mission serving days; contact John for available days*
- *Harriet – Put Meals on Wheels info in newsletter*
- *Harriet – Research bumper sticker info/cost for Side with Love*
- *Miriam and Susan – follow up with Twisted Sisters on number of items, type of items, etc.*
- *Miriam and Susan – Prepare gift bags for Empower*
- *Barb – Recruit volunteers for MLK luncheon*
- *Meganne – Explore the idea of Valentine’s Dance “for all Lovers”*
- *Rev. Micah, Harriet, Possibly Holly – plan a meeting to discuss Recovery support group*
- *Lauren and Finance Committee; Share the Plate; Lauren will discuss with finance committee; Committee will follow-up in February to finalize decision and name organizations for receiving the donations.*
- *Meganne, Barb, Amy – Plan a meeting to discuss when to show the Leandro films*
- *Barb – Place a bin for Coats for Kids which Jennifer Johnson will collect.*
- *Harriet/Martha K – Contact Geno to see what information he has re: homeless veterans*
- *Harriet – Put in The Wave on Friday, November 18, the announcement for empty seats at Domestic Violence luncheon*