

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 21, 2023

Present: Shana Tamminga, Penny Hooper, Miriam Green, Barb Thomas, Martha Kenworthy, Rev. Micah Ma, Harriet Altman, Tom Wentworth, Meganne Smith

- 1. Welcome and introduction of new member, Shana Tamminga. Meeting facilitated by Barb Thomas.**
- 2. UCF VISION Statement, SA Mission Statement, and 2022-2023 Goals – included on agenda**
- 3. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from 2/23/23 meeting approved as written**
- 4. Old Business and Updates**
 - Social Justice Priorities Template – sent as attachment; updated by Barb
 - Anti-Racism – Penny Hooper
 - The Board of Trustees approved the inclusion of the 8th amendment to be on the ballot for our June annual meeting.
 - Susan Roberts will put something in the Wave and submitted an article in the Coastline.
 - Penny made the suggestion that we do the Wage Gap Simulation game that was done at the community college. This would be with the AME Zion Church in Beaufort, the Presbyterian church in Beaufort, UCF, and possibly the local NAACP. The committee approved to do this in the fall.
 - Welcoming Congregation Renewal – Barb Thomas
 - The Progress flag has been hung inside for several months now in preparation for hanging it outside. There will be a ballot question in June at the Annual Meeting; This follows 3 recent congregational conversations. The ballot question reads as follows: *“I support installing a nautical flag pole on the campus of UCF to fly the American and Progress flags and rotate a third flag with flags that represent our values.”* If 70% agree, we will move forward.
 - Family Pride in the Park will take place on June 10 at the MLK Park; The exact time will be announced later and we hope to have lots of participation from UCF. We will have a UCF table at the event with swag to give out.
 - Welcoming Congregation renewal status for 23-24; we have already started the process; we need 2 services, 6 days of recognition, an educational program, and support to LGBTQ+ organizations. For example, a day of recognition would be to acknowledge a past event such as the Pulse nightclub tragedy by putting it in the newsletter and on the website, and Rev. Ma can mention it in Joys and Concerns. Meganne recalled the Memorial Service we had after the Pulse event and suggested that we do one now to acknowledge all of the anti-gay and trans laws that are being put into place. *She will email the Welcoming Congregation committee with her ideas.*

- Service Days
 - Blood Drives – Barb; we have had 3 drives and have collected 66 units of blood so far. July 25 is our next scheduled one.
 - Hope Mission – Harriet; *As soon as she reaches John from Hope Mission to schedule a date, we will send an email out.* We will tentatively plan on every other month. *Harriet will also ask Glenda if they need toiletries; It was suggested that we could have a 2nd basket for toiletries.* Rev. Ma also mentioned strengthening our relationship with Storehouse. *Miriam will reach out to them about their needs. Martha also will send us a form that Carteret Food Waste and Recovery has put together.*
- Green Sanctuary Report – Lauren/Linda; Lauren and Linda couldn't be there so Barb read their report.
 - Events summary:
 1. The Irish Themed Plant Based Potluck was held on March 15. Great success.
 2. The Greening of the Church occurred on March 19, including coffee and cookies. There were about a dozen participating.
 3. The 5th Sunday offering in April for Coastal Carolina Riverwatch raised \$1052.71. Riley Lewis came to Worship on April 30 to speak about their mission and activities.
 - Future Plans:
 1. Jointly with ASE, they have scheduled a tour of CCC Hospitality and Culinary Arts Center, boat building facility, and Aquaculture & Horticulture Programs on June 29 at 10:00am.
 2. They have plans to show film *The Smell of Money* in September.
 3. They have plans to resume hikes in September.
 4. They plan to spend their 2023-24 budget (\$250) on upkeep and improvement of the grounds around the Fellowship in preparation for two things: the renewal of the UUA Green Sanctuary Certification and the Sacred Grounds NWF certification that they hope to get. These are the top priorities on the short term.
- Food Collection – Miriam Green
 - Social Hall - Caroline Dominguez has been taking our basket collection to Storehouse;
 - Mini Food pantry – Helene Kelly and Caroline Dominguez have taken charge of this; Caroline found someone that will build it. Shana suggested having a resource list in there too. Meganne mentioned that kids from Boys and Girls club may want to access it. She will find out about this.
- Tea party with the Twisted sisters – Miriam.
 - The Twisted Sisters group is suggesting that we join together on preparing our holiday gift bags for Hope Mission, using their knitted bags, etc. We would still put in our gift cards. We have agreed to do this.

5. New Business

- Budget Disbursement –
 - Welcoming Congregation is meeting on May 30; it was voted to approve the WC committee decide which organizations to give the \$200.

- Immigration - AMEXCAN was suggested for the \$100. Penny made a motion to send money to them. Motion passed.
- Animal Protection – the \$200 will be given to OWLS and the Humane Society this year but we will keep Austin Outreach and Paws on the list for future consideration. Shana also mentioned the Beaufort Cat Project which catches wild cats and gets them spayed/neutered.
- Share the Plate –
 - Financial Committee decided that we will now have a different charity every month and will split the undesignated money in each plate with that charity. Social Justice has to choose the charities.
 - We will designate two months for holiday giving – (Sept and Oct); July will be “Stuff the Bus” which collects backpacks with school supplies and snacks for returning students. *Meganne will find out about who is sponsoring this effort and where we can send our donations.* August will be Carteret Long Term Recovery Alliance.
 - We will decide on future Share the Plate designees at our meeting in August. Suggestions include:
 - Broad Street Clinic
 - NAACP Scholarship
 - Family Promise
- NAACP – Rev. Ma
 - Reggie, a district supervisor from Greenville met with the local chapter and said this group had been somehow disconnected. But now that is all corrected. He also said there is exciting action on the national level regarding Voter Rights, etc.
- Deescalation training – Rev. Ma
 - Rev. Ma, Holly Rogers, Marty Newcomb, and Susan Fetzter attended the training in Wilmington sponsored by Blueprint NC. UUJNC is part of this. It was very encouraging to know that we are “not alone” and stressed the importance of building relationships which is what helps with safety. They are working on a statewide plan for rapid response to events.
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Next meeting: August 20, 2023 – save the date

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Harriet Altman