

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Sunday, Aug 20, 2023 11:45 AM, Room 7 SBW Center

Present: Caroline Dominguez, Harriet Altman, Susan Roberts, Holly Rogers, Amy Jones, Stormy Burchett, Helene Kelly, Barb Thomas, Miriam Green, Joan Burton, Rev. Micah, Susan Fetzer, Meganne Smith

1. **Welcome and introductions** – Harriet welcomed everyone, including Stormy who was there for the first time.
2. **UCF Vision Statement, SJ Mission Statement and 2022-2023 SA Goals** – all of these are located on page 2 of the agenda. We will review the goals later in the agenda.
3. **Approval of May 21, 2023 Minutes** – sent as attachment – approved as written
4. **Old Business and Updates**
 - **Social Justice Priorities Template** – (sent as attachment) – Barb/Harriet. This document helps us track our progress. It will be updated by the co-chairs before each meeting and sent out to the members of the committee with the agenda. Members are welcome to review it and make suggestions for updates.
 - **Racial Justice Group/8th amendment** – what’s next? – Penny, Susan
 - Penny reported that there was a brainstorming session last week and the RJG is moving forward with a plan for fall
 - Film series – Adult SE is planning a Social Justice film series on the 2nd Thursday of every month, starting in September. The first film on 9/14 at 6:30 PM will be “Wilmington on Fire” which chronicles the 1898 Wilmington Massacre. The NAACP will be invited along with many other local churches and groups. We will have people sign in at the showing (with email addresses) and send follow up emails for future film showings.
 - The RJG will have action items once a month – either meetings or other action to address systemic racism locally – September 27th meeting – 4th Wednesday of the month. Rev. Ma will talk about Article 2 – There was talk of a cake with the Article 2 graphic on it
 - ***Penny is going to look into ordering t-shirts with our church name and the Article 2 Graphic***
 - **Welcoming Congregation Renewal** – Amy
 - Flagpole status and plans
 - We’ve sent the deposit – the flagpole is expected to go up the week of 9/11. It will go in the mulched area along Church St. near the Bridges St. corner
 - Bob and Dan will install a light to illuminate the American flag at night
 - We hope to raise the flags on 10/11 for National Coming Out day and have a celebration afterwards
 - The Safety plan is in the process of being implemented. We have completed a door locking trial for safety
 - Miriam asked about threats – 4 have attended a de-escalation class
 - Rev. Ma has sent out info about a webinar “What if my congregation is threatened” which several people will attend
 - 3rd flag – There was a discussion about how the 3rd flag will be selected
 - We will keep a NC flag up for the rest of 2023 while implementing a process for proposing 3rd flags
 - ***The WCR Team will develop a request form for flying a flag for a specific month***

- Requirements for 3rd flags will include
 - The flag must represent something that meets UCF's Mission and the 7 principles
 - It must represent something that we are actively working to help
 - The individuals or groups who request the flag for a month will be responsible for obtaining the flag
 - 2023-24 Welcoming Congregation Renewal status – we are on track to meet the requirements
- **Service Days – Harriet/Barb**
 - July 25th blood drive – Barb - 22 units collected –next date Nov. 29th – 10 AM to 3 PM
 - Rev. Ma suggested that we pick something that we want for \$300 and publicize that to increase the number of donors – send any ideas to Harriet or Barb
 - Serving at Hope Mission – Harriet
 - Harriet finally was able to reach John at Hope Mission. They need help serving lunch on the 1st or 2nd Tuesday of the month. We decided to help on the 2nd Tuesday of the month every other month and start on Sept. 12th. **Barb will send out a separate email requesting volunteers for that date**
- **Green Sanctuary report** - Barb read the GS report which is pasted at the end of these minutes
- **Food Collection in Social Hall/ Roadside Food Pantry** – Miriam/Helene/Caroline
 - The basket in the Social Hall has been collecting a lot of food
 - Helpers who have volunteered to take the food from the basket to Storehouse or other pantries are: Miriam, Wes, Caroline, Helene and Barb – we might need to set up a schedule to take the food?
 - StoreHouse info: Delicia – 443-956-4633 also 252-725-5539 – 3114 Bridges St.
 - Those who deliver food to the food pantry should estimate the weight of the food – and let Daryl know
 - Roadside Pantry – Helene and Caroline
 - Caroline reported that Bill Douglas, the carpenter who is going to build the food pantry had eye surgery. He will see his doctor in early September and then should be able to build the pantry
 - Barb will go with Bill and Caroline to pick up the materials at Lowe's and will handle paying and getting reimbursed by the grant money
 - Caroline picked up the wood from Nan's house and stored it in the shed at UCF
 - When the pantry is complete we will paint it and Bill will install it near the SBW building at the southeast corner.
 - There was a short discussion about stocking the pantry with things like toiletries as well as food. Stocking processes and record keeping will be discussed by those involved once the pantry is ready.
- **Holiday Gift Giving** – Miriam mentioned that we will be working with Twisted Sisters on our gift bags for Hope Mission this year

5. New Business

- **Social Justice Committee goals** - we reviewed the goals from 2022-2023. We agreed to keep those goals and **Penny is going to create a new goal related to our adoption of the 8th principle and the work we want to do this year, and send it to Barb and Harriet.** We will send it to the whole group for approval.

- **Film Series** – Holly – The Adult Spiritual Exploration Committee, along with Social Justice and Green Sanctuary will be having a social justice film series starting in September, 2023 and going through May or June of next year.
 - The films have been selected although not all have been confirmed
 - Rev. Ma wrote a press release that has already gone out and includes the first four films
 - The films will be shown on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM
 - There is a designated person in charge of each film and they will be responsible for lining up people to help publicize, set up, run the tech, and clean up after each film
- **Domestic Violence Shelter Luncheon** – 11/19/23 “Shop, Savor, and Sip” – This annual event includes a luncheon, fashion show and silent auction. Tickets are \$55. We decided not to buy a table this year but we will publicize the event.
- **Voter Registration Drive** – Barb - We are co-sponsoring the LWV Voter Registration Drive at Carteret Community College this year. The drive will be held from Sept. 18th to 21st – we will need many volunteers for 2 ½ to 3 hour shifts on those days. The sign up sheet will go out after Labor Day
- **Medicaid Expansion** – Harriet - we are joining UU Justice NC in an NC wide effort to get the state legislature to pass Medicaid Expansion before the end of August by making phone calls to the House and Senate leaders. They will be getting constant calls from 9 – 5 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week and we will do one hour – on Wednesday from 11 to 12. We need to recruit 20 people to do make the calls. Those who want to help are contacting Harriet and she will send out the instructions and the time slots.

6. Share the Plate – 23-24 fiscal year

- July – Stuff the Bus - \$702.50
- August – Carteret Long Term Recovery Alliance (CLTRA)
- September and October – Holiday Giving – Miriam and Susan will handle the announcements
- November: we decided on UUSC – Guest at your Table program – need a person to speak about this program and write up the announcements
- December: We decided this would be a good time to collect money for the Food Pantries – we will ask Daryl to suggest one or more that do not have any requirements to qualify to get food
- Other suggestions:
 - Broad Street Clinic
 - NAACP Scholarship Fund
 - Family Promise
 - Boys & Girls Club scholarships for summer camp experience – Lauren will get more info?
 - Blue Print NC
 - UU Justice NC
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- 7. **Next Meeting** – Due to travel and scheduling conflicts, our November meeting will be on Zoom on Tuesday, November 28th. We will let you know the time soon. If you prefer a certain time of day, please email Harriet and Barb and let us know. Our priority for that meeting will be the holiday planning which should be pretty well set by then but we can tie up any loose ends at that meeting.

Green Sanctuary Report to Social Justice August 20, 2023

Summer Events:

- The Green Sanctuary and Adult Spiritual Enrichment Committees sponsored a field trip to Carteret Community College June 29 at 10 am to tour the Hospitality and Culinary Arts Center, MARTEC Boat Building Facility, and the Aquaculture Building. Twelve people attended the field trip.
- We collected 42 items during our bra donation for Bra Recyclers. The items will be sent this month.
- The Green Sanctuary used the 2022 budget to purchase mulch and fertilizer. The mulch still needs to be spread after a “weeding event.”

Future Plans:

- Show film *The Letter* in October.
- Possible hikes to resume in September when the weather cools.
- We plan to spend our 2023-24 budget (\$250) on upkeep and improvement of the grounds around the Fellowship in preparation for two things: our renewal of the UUA Green Sanctuary Certification and the Sacred Grounds NWF certification that we hope to get. These are our top priorities for the short term.