

UCF Social Justice Committee Minutes
May 30, 2024

Barb Thomas, Penny Hooper, Rev. Micah Ma, Amy Jones, Susan Roberts, Holly Rogers, Harriet Altman

- **UCF Vision statement, SJ Mission Statement and 2023-2024 SJ Goals**– Barb pointed out that ~~this is~~ these are on the back of the agenda
- **Approval of February 25, 2024 minutes** as written
- **Old Business and Updates**
 - **Racial Justice Group** – Penny Hooper and Susan Roberts
 - The plan moving forward will be to combine racial justice and climate justice.
 - In light of what’s at stake in the upcoming election, Penny suggested we show the movie this summer – Cooked – Survival by Zip Code this summer, a documentary offered in partnership between Interfaith Power and Light and Bullfrog Films.
 - It’s suggested that Susan, Penny, Harriet, Holly, and Lauren Donnachie (if she’s willing) meet to discuss this new direction of Racial Justice and environmental justice.
 - **Welcoming Congregation** – Amy Jones
 - Our renewal has been received; Amy expressed a big thank you to Rev. Ma for uplifting our LGBTQ+ community and allies; She suggested that we diversify our committee with some new members.
 - We are on track for our next renewal; For example we have a service this Sunday in which Rev. Ma will be reflective of the intersectionality of other disenfranchised groups that have stood up. The Greater Greenville Queer Chorus will be there.
 - We have had our Progress Flag for about 6 months with no known issues. (Barb mentioned she found it on the ground, but it may have been the wind)
 - We hope to show You Belong documentary this fall – Brooklyn Rollins will help with that.
 - Amy shared that one of the best things she has done is attend the Love One Another Symposium and Rev. Ma , as keynote speaker, “set the place on fire”.
 - June Share the Plate – SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Alliance)
- **Service Days**

- Red Cross Blood Drive was held on May 14. There was 22 units of blood donated. So far we have never reached the goal of 30 units.
 - Rev. Ma suggested we advertise an item that we want to purchase for the \$300 to motivate people. Our next drive is scheduled for July 23rd;
 - **Family Promise yardwork**; this did not work out due to only one volunteer – Devon Merkley. Sandi Hewitt said they were fine without our help; we will solicit volunteers for UCF yard instead.
 - **Hope Mission** – we will revisit this in the fall;
 - **Other ideas** included volunteering at Storehouse, picking up leftover food from Starbucks, Jennifer Johnson’s coat drives, drive for long-sleeve shirts. Amy suggested that we be a dropoff for the shirts next year.
 - **Little Food Pantry** – There seems to be plenty of food, though unpredictable what is needed. They always need milk. Helene will be out of town in June for a couple of weeks and will need help. Barb mentioned that we can also still collect for Storehouse as we were doing, so not to be too choosy about what people bring.
 - **Little Free Library** – Harriet has this in her garage – thanks to Billy Kane. After talking about this to Leadership Council, we will decide about installing it. Barb suggested we put it on the north side of the ramp into the Sally B. White Building. It will be on the next LC agenda.
 - **Social Justice Film series** - Holly; we did not show a film in May; the last film will be shown on June 13, Ghosts in Our Machine, which is about animal rights. It’s up in the air about how many we will show next year. Frustration was discussed on the work involved in promoting them and still having a small turnout. Penny suggested that we could advertise the environmental film that we may show on June 13.
- **New Business**
 - **UU the Vote** – Barb

Barb participated in the launch on May 14. The National UU the Vote person was a speaker. Barb was inspired by a speaker from Wilmington who said that their Social Justice work will ~~only~~ mainly focus on the UU the Vote from now until November since everything we work for is on the line in this upcoming election.

These are the upcoming events with UU the Vote

 - Postcard project – we will be writing them in August and September – By the end of June we need to know how many packets we need. We hopefully will receive the \$500 grant to purchase supplies and may need more money from our budget.
 - You Can Vote Training online will be offered on Voter Registration

- National Phone Bank – there will be 3 opportunities to participate in this
 - Canvassing events
 - Organized Rides to the polls
 - Democracy NC is requesting people to be Voter Protectors
 - Rapid Response Safety Network – Rev. Ma mentioned that this can be a possible fundraiser. She’s been talking to Lisa Garcia-Sampson about this. A Safe Site can get potentially \$5000 to pay for volunteers, but the volunteers may opt to not take the money so the church could get the money. Rev. Ma will get back to us on this. It would also include de-escalation training.
- **Budget distribution** – 2023-2024 fiscal year; attachment was included with the minutes and agenda.
 - The money for Welcoming Congregation will be split between Equality NC and Jesse Peal LGBTQ+ Center at ECU.
 - \$200 will go to Humane Society
 - We will be paying \$250 to Greenville choir.
 - We are rolling over \$1272.92 to the 2024-25 UCF budget.
 - Azalea purchased by green sanctuary \$30
- **Share the plate**
 - July – Citizens for Diversity in Education (JoEllen can talk about it)
 - August – Literacy Council – Barb will contact Terrie Hostmark
 - September - Amy met someone that is involved with the Planned Parenthood on a state level. She will follow up on this.
- **Other ideas**
 - Amy suggested that we get a list of people signed up for Social Justice for us to reach out to them and ask them to get involved.
 - Rev. Ma suggested we need to figure out what they are interested in.
 - Barb suggested we do a postcard writing party. And also with phone banking, action hour - these are things we can do together.
 - Rev. Ma said as in the book, Rules for Radicals – the best protests need to be fun!

Adjourned –

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Altman