

**UUC Social Justice Council Meeting  
February 15, 2020, Chorale Room  
MINUTES**

*The Mission of the UUC Social Justice Council is to facilitate communication and cooperation between the Council members, Social Justice Committees, UUC Board of Trustees, UUC congregation, and the wider community.*

Meeting Chair – Eileen Senn, Secretary – Marcia Bailey

Present: Susan Allen, Marcia Bailey, Marlene Calderone, Barb Foley, Harriet Ha-Sidi, Eileen Senn, and Barbara Shimer. Mary Currey shared information about the budget, and Pan Godchaux came with Barb Foley to present information about the Pinellas Coalition for Immigrant Justice.

Eileen opened the meeting with a reading.

Eileen moved approval of the minutes and Marlene seconded that. Motion passed.

Mary Currey explained that the SJ Council can ask for similar funding as last year. It was clarified that there are no dedicated funds for Environmental Justice, Migrant Justice, and Intersections. These committees draw money as needed from the overall Social Justice budget. Mary said the Finance Committee will send us a request for our projected budget soon and our response will they will be due back to them by mid-March. Mary encouraged the BLM Committee to request money for Beloved Conversations for FY 20-21 even though we will not have the program that year. The money will carry over to FY 21-22 since it will be in a dedicated fund.

Marlene gave the treasurer's report. Eileen moved approval and Susan seconded the motion which passed. Marlene moved that the council approve \$282 to be taken from the Better World Fund and added to the Christmas Eve donation to make a total of \$1000 to be donated to Feeding America Tampa Bay. Eileen seconded the motion which passed.

Barb Foley presented information about the Pinellas Coalition for Immigrant Justice and moved that the Council vote to be part of this coalition. Marlene seconded the motion which passed. Barb will speak to the Board about UUC as a whole joining the coalition. The Coalition will alternate having their meetings between the Allendale Church in St. Petersburg and the UUC. On March 20, a special event highlighting immigration issues will be held in St Pete's at Temple Bethel. One of the "witnesses" to U.S. / Mexican border will also be speaking at Open Issues in April. We plan to inform the congregation about this group through info in the E-Octagram, encourage congregants to attend the event and publicize the Open Issues speaker in the E-Octagram.

Share the Plate donations were discussed. February 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the MLK Neighborhood Center, March 8<sup>th</sup> Australia Relief (Marlene will research an appropriate

group), March 22<sup>nd</sup> Anytown, April 12<sup>th</sup> One Tree Planted, and April 26<sup>th</sup> Compassion & Choices.

Bill Foley asked the Council to consider making a donation to UU The Vote 2020. The Council voted to make a donation of \$250 and the Council moved that cause to the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Share the Plate date and moved Anytown to May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Ongoing Work:** The council wants to consider using Google Docs again, but that was tabled until next month.

Eileen will give the SJ Report tomorrow.

Barb Foley will cover the SJ table tomorrow. The sheet was passed around for more members to sign-up to cover the table in March. It was also mentioned that T-shirts will be sold for \$10 each.

A paper was circulated listing the March activities sponsored by the SJ Council. Eileen will send it to Barb Foley

Evening Issues in February will be the program *Prison Stories* by Ned and Christina Bellamy.

### **Committee Reports:**

FAST: The Nehemiah event will be on March 30<sup>th</sup> at Indian Rocks Baptist Church.

BLM: There will be a Bring It Home Florida Community Event on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 pm. Eileen asked that we give \$50 to sponsor that event, and the Council decided to take \$50 from the #2398 Black Lives Matter account for that purpose.

Environmental Justice: Barbara Shimer shared information about the ceremony for Earth Day on April 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be information about composting and a tree will be planted in honor of our former security guard, Ed; a Live Oak Tree was suggested for that purpose. Barbara also shared that the committee had made arrangements for a solar panel to be installed to provide the electricity for security lighting. They will do Sunday Snack soon and must attend an in-service training beforehand.

End of Life Choices: Marcia shared that Compassion & Choices has decided to send letters to medical facilities about their practices. Dan Diaz, the husband of Brittany Maynard, will be speaking in the Surti Center on February 18<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 2:30 pm.

She also shared that she and her husband, Will, will be teaching a workshop about enneagrams on March 22 and 29<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 – 2:30 pm in Classroom 2. She will publicize the adult education activity.

Intersections: The group is meeting.

Puerto Rico Connect: No report.

Fair Trade: The committee is selling coffee and chocolate.

Refugee Task Force: Barb Foley reported that the group has 8 regular students. She was involved with the schools about the FSA test results for one of the students. It was very complicated. The group wants to buy a file cabinet for storing their materials in the Social Justice Closet.

Migrant Farm Workers: Harriet moved that we give a \$250 donation to Migrant Justice in Vermont because of the legal costs they are incurring in trying to keep ICE from deporting people who should not be deported. Eileen seconded the motion which passed. They who have been outstanding in advocating for rights for the dairy farm workers in Vermont.

Hispanic Outreach Center: There has been a scholarship offering for some of the students in the past. Because we have given a lot to their group, however, this year we may choose to give the scholarships to youth from the Upper Pinellas NAACP that reaches out to African American youth. Susan Allen will reach out to the NAACP Youth leader.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Next meeting is Sat., March 21st at 9:30 am; Linda Stoller is scheduled to Chair. Annual reports are needed from the committees.

Marcia Bailey, Secretary