

Social Justice Council Meeting – August 21, 2021

Attendees – Linda S. – Chair; Susan A. - Secretary; Marlene C. – Treasurer; Barb F., Harriet H., Kathy K., Marcia J., Natasha C.-K., Susan H. [Note: Eloise H. – BOT Liaison, had a family emergency but was present near end of the meeting to ask questions]

Last month's minutes – Approved without changes

Ann Burnham has volunteered to take over Marcia J.'s secretarial position but was not able to come to today's meeting. Susan A. agreed to take minutes for this meeting.

This was Marcia J.'s last meeting prior to her move to Columbus, OH. We thanked her for her many contributions to the Council over a number of years including serving as secretary, providing invaluable input for Council matters, and organizing and chairing the Compassion and Choices group. She exited the meeting at this point.

Treasurer Report given by Marlene. A written report had been emailed to committee members prior to the meeting. Highlights of the report and discussion:

\$28.24 was added to COVID Community Outreach donations in order to send an even amount as discussed at last month's meeting. \$1,000 from the Better World Emergency Fund is being sent to Haiti to help with relief from the current crises. This action was initiated by Marlene and approved through email by members prior to this meeting.

Share the Plate/ Community Outreach – Linda and Marlene met with the Worship Committee, including Rev. Roberta, about changes to this initiative when we return to in-person services. Since then the Board has decided to continue Zoom services indefinitely due to the serious rise in COVID cases in this state. Therefore, the Community Outreach initiative will continue at this time with some minor changes as follow:

The program will be referred to as "Community Outreach."
Criteria for organizations will be broadened to include those outside of our geographical area and needs not necessarily tied to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Community Outreach organizations by month:

August -- Clothes for Kids
September – ACLU
October – Community Tampa Bay
November – Southern Poverty Law Center

Committee Reports -

Barb F. - She will be emailing her Refugee Committee to assess their commitment to adopting an Afghani family. If there is sufficient support for this, she will call the President of the Board and plan to meet with the BoT. She believes it will be some time until families are vetted and sent to our community. We would probably work with Jewish Family Services as we have in the past for them to assign us an appropriate family.

Harriet – Reporting for the Migrant Workers Justice Committee, she stated that farm workers are dying this summer in the intense heat. The CIW is working on ways to deal with this crisis.

She does not plan to deliver rice and beans to the camps this fall due to distribution issues given COVID 19.

Linda S. - FAST meetings are resuming in the fall as planned. UUC house meetings are being organized by Linda, Doug, & Lore.

Susan A. - The Racial Justice Group's main focus continues to be introducing the congregation to the 8th Principle. The task force met with the UUC office manager to plan for a section of our website that will be designated for 8th Principle matters. They continue to work on the introductory workshop scheduled for late Sept. and the Sunday service scheduled for late Oct.

Other Business -

Linda – She read the Statement of Witness passed at this year's GA. It focuses on multiple methods of voter suppression such as fair districting, money and transparency in politics, and restoration of felon voting rights. She is encouraging UUC members to support this issue by contacting our Senators, participating in the Vecinos writing project to eligible former felons, and attending the Stop Voter Suppression March in St. Petersburg on Sat. 8/28, 5:30 pm in front of City Hall. She has written an article for the E-O about these actions. She is organizing carpooling for the March. Participants are encouraged to wear masks as a precaution against COVID 19, to wear UUC t-shirts, and to bring appropriate signs.

During the last month, as part of BoT business, Eloise had Linda review and approve the draft of the SJ Council's position in the UUC Organizational Chart. address the current New UU class for new and prospective members about Social activities at UUC.

Eloise -
BoT's
Susan A. will
Justice

Next meeting will be by Zoom and is scheduled for Sept. 18..

Minutes submitted by Susan A.