

**UUC Social Justice Council Meeting
September 19, 2020, Zoom
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 Chairs –Susan Allen and Linda Stoller , Secretary – Marcia Bailey

Present: Susan Allen, Marcia Bailey, Marlene Calderone, Barb Foley, Harriet Ha-sidi, Eliseo Santana, Barbara Shimer, Linda Stoller, and Eloise Hardman, Board liason.

Susan opened the meeting with a reading. Members checked in with how they are doing and what their group has done since our meeting in February.

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

Barb Foley shared that a number of men in their Refugee Tast Force group had lost their jobs because of the pandemic. The group was able to contribute between \$500 and \$2000 to various families and many of them became eligible for grants from Federal programs. The committee tried meeting with their families via Zoom but that was unsuccessful. They plan to try again in November since now many of the young people have learned to use Zoom.

Marcia shared that Compassion & Choices is meeting on Zoom although there are only a small number in attendance. In October they will have a speaker about natural burial at the Heartwood Preserve. In September they discussed various ways of handling bodies after death. The group is also preparing to interview local medical systems to determine which systems will cooperate with members' wishes.

Susan reported that the Hispanic Outreach Center tried to have a program for pre-school aged children on Zoom, but it didn't work out. Right now their program is on hold.

Susan reported that BLM is currently working through two small groups addressing Racial Justice issues and that those groups are thinking of merging into one group.

Harriet shared that there had been a collection for back packs. Susan shared that instead of getting back packs, however, money was collected and donated to the Pinellas Education Foundation. Harriet is hoping there can also be some accommodation for the rice and beans program which happens each year.

Barbara Shimer shared that the Environmental Justice group held an Open Issues presentation and also a webinar about green sanctuaries. They are investigating putting solar panels on church property and adding new environmentally friendly plantings around the campus.

Eliseo shared that Puerto Rico Connect is holding Zoom meetings and had a couple of food donations. For Thanksgiving Duke Energy is donating 50 pork shoulders and the group plans to gather the other items to complete a meal. He requested that the SJ Council endorse the group's use of the facilities at UUC for packing the bags to hand out to people who will drive thru to get them. The Council approved this endorsement.

Linda reported that FAST has four teams that are working via Zoom: Affordable Housing, Mental Health Services, and others although they may change some of their concentrations. Through their parent organization they were able to get a grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

Marlene gave the treasurer's report. Barbara Brandt did a drive thru to sell coffee the Fair Trade committee had purchased. The Pat McGivern money can be used by the Council. The \$1252 that was not spent during the 2019 budget year was returned to the UUC. The Council has a budget of \$1200 for fiscal 2020. Marlene suggested giving \$1000 from the Better World Emergency Fund to the Homeless Emergency Project. Marcia moved approval of the report and Susan seconded the motion which passed.

Linda presented material about the Second Chance project from the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition. There will be an announcement at the service tomorrow. Linda moved we support this effort, and Marlene seconded the motion which passed. Marlene said UUC could donate \$1000 from the Better World Fund. Linda will send the money initially because of the time constraints and she will be reimbursed.

Part 2: SJ Report: Linda will contact Margie Manning about having worship services include SJ Min. Linda will do the October minute on Oct 17th.

Susan will check out the success of "Stuff the Bus", so Harriet can determine whether or not to try to conduct the Rice and Beans event using the same approach.

Future meetings will be on Zoom on the third Saturday of the month from 10–11:30 am.

Susan will serve as the point person for the group. Barb Foley will assume responsibility for the SJ Table, Linda will chair the meetings, and Marlene and Marcia will remain in their present positions. Eloise Hardman will be the Board liaison. At this time the SJ Table will run as a virtual calendar, perhaps on the website. Barb will contact Anne Gilbert about putting information in the E-Octogram or possibly on the website.

FAST is planning a program for Open Issues. There are no plans for Evening Issues.

Linda suggested expanding the council to include members at large who might take responsibility for some of the administration of the council. Right now members also carry responsibility for some major program running under the auspices of the council.
Marcia Bailey, Secretary