

UUC Social Justice Council Meeting

Saturday, June 17 2023

In attendance: Eloise Hardman, Linda Stoller, Davonne Irion, Trude Diamond, Barb Foley, Eliseo Santana, Sue Hand, Marleen Calderone and Rev. Amy Kindred.

Linda began the meeting with a reading to light the chalice. Words by Rev. Erika Hewitt.

Check-in

Approval of Minutes for May-Approved with one correction. Change "Hankin" to "Hanks" for Patti Hanks, our Intern Minister.

Treasurer's Report – Approved. Marlene will turn the Treasurer's position over to Bob Hedlund on July 13th. We have much gratitude to Marlene for her 17 years as Treasurer for the Social Justice Council.

There was a question about the remaining Fair Trade coffee money. It moves to the agenda next month.

SJC is seeking someone to coordinate the monthly Community Outreach Recipient and to check the org. 501 c-3 status, to write an article for the E-Octagram, Send notice to the Administrator and the E-Octagram editor. Additionally, the person needs to send a letter of intent to donate UUC's contribution and then follow through with check or electronic transfer to the recipient.

Trude agreed to become the point-person for the monthly Community Outreach recipient program.

Clothes to Kids is the Community recipient for July and August donations. Marlene will do the Octagram article for them.

What is the status for the policy for not-for-profit rentals? This is a UUC BOT decision. TBA

Pride parade in Dunedin will be held on June 23rd, Friday. Gather at the TD Blue Jays Ball Park at 4pm if you are riding on the golfcart. The parade starts at 5.

Pride parade in St. Pete is on June 24, Saturday. Our UUC, St. Pete. UU and Tarpon Springs spot is Blue 114.

Abortion on the Ballot initiative is on-going. Sue, who is overseeing the work here at UUC stated she sent 72 ballots the first time, and 62 ballots the second time she sent a packet to the home office organizing the efforts to get the initiative on the ballot. Sue stated there is an individual in a 180-person residential community who is working to get more completed petitions in. Although Rev. Amy commented that Floridians Protecting Freedoms reported that we were two months ahead of schedule to get the total number of petitions in on time. However, Sue

commented that we will need to consider alternative approaches to getting the petitions signed.

Sue asked for someone to sit at the table at UUC for signed petitions to be dropped off on Wed. 4-6 pm and 2-4 on Sunday during the week of 6/18 – 25 while Sue is at UUA General Assembly in Pittsburgh.

Linda can do 6/25 Sunday, and Eloise can do 6/21 Wednesday.

The annual collection of school supplies is normally held in July. However, since we are doing alternative programming on four Sundays in July, it won't work for UUC this year. Eliseo commented that he is working with Chispa (Spanish version of the word "spark") is working to coordinate efforts. He will let the SJC know what might be helpful in the future.

There is an 11 am information session at ST. Pete City Hall on July 1. There will be many organizations gathering as part of a statewide initiative to counter/protest against the latest Florida Legislative measures regarding immigrant and farm worker population.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Harriet: Barbara and Bill Foley will take over the rice and bean distribution initiative and the blanket distribution to farm workers in Plant City.

Trude: Reporting for Racial Justice, Trude stated several people were in attendance at the Studio at 620 with artist talks and more about how they were creating in the name of social justice initiatives. The group is not meeting in July. Watch for Trude's blurb in the future.

Eloise volunteers at the courthouse. (Eloise and Eliseo both said our UUC efforts are noticed, recognized, and appreciated by individuals in the community.)

June 27th at 6 pm, there is a Take It To The Streets event at 34th st. and 22nd Ave. S., at Lakewood plaza in St. Pete.

Barb: Refugee Program. She said the last class was at the end of May. In the Fall, we hope to include a family from Sudan in our UUC activities.

Linda: The FAST event in St. Pete regarding Affordable Housing was held. We are unsure how it went when the mayor was asked about a commitment to affordable housing. More info. To come in the fall.

Eliseo: LLULAC – anti-immigration law were filled with hate. A recent law was passed that was not good but there has been misunderstanding in the community about how bad it really is. It will, however, affect the Hispanic community which is 10% of the population here in Pinellas county. For example, the population is mostly terrified. Here is what was recently filed: If you go to the hospital, all people will be asked if they are documented. All people believe they have

to answer yes” or “no.” Eliseo is trying to spread the word that a person DOES NOT have to answer either way. LULAC is working on getting correct information out to the populations.

CPR training for LULAC continues in faith communities.

LULAC is having a continued presence at school board meetings.

There was a request for Eliseo to do a Zoom Q and A session one day soon to articulate immigration laws to individuals including UUC friends and members. Linda and Eliseo will talk.

Eloise: Environmental Justice will set up a table in the social hall, for petitions for clean water to be placed and encourage people to sign them. There will also be information about recycling available as well.

Solar panel information gathering is ongoing. Thank you to Roger Young for continuing to pursue the idea that UUC might one day get off the grid somewhat!

Lifelong Learning-Adults and older children may have access to a composting information session one day soon.

An idea was floated about having a recycling tour video to be posted one day on the E-Octagram.

There is also interest in online videos about carbon and environmental studies to be shared via Ted Talks and more.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.