

Social Justice Council Meeting

June 25, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM on Zoom only. Attending: Linda Stoller (chair), Eloise Hardman (board liaison), Harriet Ha-Sidi, Barbara Foley, Marlene Calderone (treasurer), Natasha Cruz-Knopf, Carole Vaughn and Anne Burnham (secretary).

Minutes (May 28th): accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Marlene did not have a report to give because she didn't receive the information until the night before our meeting and there were errors. Getting timely info has been an ongoing problem, especially of concern when the books are closed at the end of the year. Marlene will speak to Joe Pace again and see what can be done. Hopefully UUC will be hiring a bookkeeper soon.

Marlene wondered if we should send the two months of Community Outreach donations to Feeding Tampa Bay each month. The group felt it was better to send the total amount at the end of the second month.

New and Continuing Issues

- 1) Film Series: In Christina's absence, we were asked to continue looking for films to show in the fall.
- 2) Postcard writing event: Linda said that our NAACP partner has had postcards printed and will get address lists to us so that we can start writing them. We would like to have food at a social event for writing postcards, but the mask requirement indoors makes that unworkable. Eloise suggested that we have 60s protest music that we could sing along to; perhaps Fred Johnson or Van Fenstermaker could perform, or the NAACP would have music to suggest. A Saturday morning in July seems like the best time, Linda will check the NAACP's calendar.
- 3) Social Justice Report: no report tomorrow, Linda will be recovering from the Pride Parade!
- 4) Welcoming Rev. Amy: Harriet said that Soledad has agreed to take charge of the reception on Sept. 11th and there will be a welcoming packet made up for Rev. Amy; she asked Anne to consider compiling a booklet with short blurbs from committee members about themselves. Linda suggested SJC have a meet & greet for committees to tell Rev. Amy about what we're doing.

Committee Reports

- 1) Migrant farmworkers: Harriet said that the CIW continues the Wendy's campaign. She stated that health concerns mean that she can't continue the rice and beans distribution; need a chair or cochair to help with that. We already have money set aside and Linda assured her that we will make it happen again this year.
- 2) Racial Justice: Trude sent word that the committee is on summer hiatus.
- 3) FAST: Linda reported that everyone is encouraged to attend a prayer vigil for Sheriff Gualtieri at the Pinellas County Justice Center at 10 AM on June 30th. Since he did not attend the last Nehemiah Action, postcards have been collected to give to the sheriff regarding using civil citations for adults who commit non-dangerous misdemeanors. Anyone wanting to learn more about that is welcome to attend the Criminal Justice Research Committee meeting on June 27th at 5:30 PM at Palm Lake Christian Church in St. Petersburg.
- 4) Compassion & Choices: Anne invited anyone going to the Pride Parade to stop by the C&C booth there.

- 5) Refugee Task Force: Barb said to stay tuned for new information that will be coming from Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services.
- 6) LULAC: no report from Eliseo

Discussion followed about forming a group to focus on energizing a reproductive rights and LGBTQ initiative, in consideration of the intersection of bodily autonomy and LGBTQ issues. There is a need in Pinellas County to broaden the info available to voters about where candidates stand. Concern was expressed about the domino effect following the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*—e.g., adoptions for “unorthodox” groups, marriage rights, etc. Harriet suggested forming a Side of Love committee, as that group already combines both. UUC’s unique location mid-county enables us to extend our reach to the northern part of Pinellas County. Eloise suggested working with Allendale Methodist (Rev. Andy Oliver); other congregations in the area support reproductive rights as well. There was interest expressed in having a candidate forum at UUC with the League of Women Voters. We need to join with other groups, as it is too much to do on our own. Linda will publicize this in the next e-Octagram so that UUC people will start thinking about this.

The next SJC meeting will be on July 23rd (fourth Saturday) at 10 AM on Zoom and in person. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Burnham