

SJ Council Meeting

March 19, 2022

The in-person (!) meeting was called to order in the glorious outdoors at 9:35 AM. Present: Linda Stoller (chair), Christina Bellamy, Natasha Cruz-Knopf, Barb Czech, Barbara Foley, Marlene Calderone, Davonne Irion, Eliseo Santana, Eloise Hardman (board liaison), Carole Vaughn, Barb Shimer and Anne Burnham (secy.)

The January minutes were approved. Anne asked about posting the minutes to the UUC members' section of the website and the consensus of the group was that we didn't need to, that minutes could be made available upon request.

Treasurer's Report: Marlene reported that there is approximately \$735 left in the Social Justice budget after committing \$200 for the election postcards and stamps. \$505 was collected for CIW; Marlene will check if more came in during the extended time in March. \$1,087.23 was deposited for Guest at Your Table with an additional \$205.08 coming in since then.

New and Continuing Issues

- 1) Film Series: Christina broached the idea of having documentary film showings at UUC that would be about an hour in length, with people in our community who are involved with the subject matter of the film speaking afterwards. She used as an example the film about Paul Farmer and Partners in Health, for which USF would be an excellent resource, given it is a leader in public health in the U.S. Christina has had experience with this sort of initiative with other groups and found it relatively easy to organize. UUC has shown films successfully in the past and by inviting the public this would fit well with our expressed interest in "widening the circle." We responded enthusiastically and set fall as a target time to start (or possibly summer). Christina asked us to bring suggestions of suitable documentaries, not more than 60 minutes in length, as well as all pertinent information, to the next meeting.
- 2) New policy: Natasha reported that the board will be voting on new policy guidelines based on recommendations from the ad hoc Unhoused People on Campus Task Force. As part of the new policy, the board is asking the SJC to assemble small-sample hygiene kits (donated by UUC members or purchased) and literature (a list of resources for housing or other services, as well as UUC and UUA brochures) to give to any unhoused people who come to the campus. Barbara C. mentioned that she has dental products she can contribute and that Medicare covers the cost for some hygiene items at CVS and other pharmacies.
- 3) Pride Parade: Linda suggested that the UU Cluster congregations join together to sponsor a UU "We Say Gay" float in the St. Pete parade on Saturday June 25, 2022, which would not only bring attention to UUs but also allow nonambulatory members to participate. There would be an opportunity to have an OWL table of information at the Family Day that is part of the event as well.
- 4) Social Justice Report: Topics Linda will touch on will include Nehemiah, the \$1,000 contribution from the Better World Emergency Fund for Ukraine (sent to the International Rescue Committee) and our new election postcard initiative.

Committee Reports

- 1) Migrant Farmworkers: no report (Harriet absent)
- 2) Racial Justice: Linda (on behalf of Trude) mentioned that the March 27th sermon will focus on the topic of racial justice and the 8th Principle. On April 10th there will be a special congregational meeting for a vote on whether or not the congregation supports adding it to our 7 Principles.

- 3) FAST: Linda said that the Nehemiah Action will be a drive-in event with outdoor seating at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Clearwater. Those attending need to register their cars. FAST's facebook page will stream the event.
- 4) Compassion & Choices: Anne reported that the last and next 2 meetings will focus on dementia and VSED (voluntarily stopping eating and drinking) issues.
- 5) Refugee Task Force: Barbara Foley told us that they have located a group of Afghan refugees living near UUC on Nursery Rd. The task force has had a couple of meetings with St. Catherine of Siena, which has been doing an ESL program for about 10 adults and some children from 12-2 on Sundays and also providing free clothing. In the fall UUC will restart its program on Saturdays for our original families and new Afghan residents. Next Saturday there will be a party for refugee families in Surti Hall.
- 6) LULAC: Eliseo reported that LULAC has been successful in bringing about a significant increase in Hispanic voters in Clearwater through forums with the League of Women Voters and the NAACP to educate about the candidates. LULAC is starting back with in-person meetings and will have a statewide convention for further education.

The meeting adjourned about 10:40, in time to get set up for election postcard writing. The next meeting will be in-person at UUC on April 16th at 10 AM. Eliseo offered use of his computer with wide angle camera so that the meeting can be on Zoom as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Burnham