

Social Justice Council Meeting

October 22, 2022

The Zoom-only meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM. Attending: Linda Stoller (chair), Natasha Cruz-Knopf, Carol Vaughn, Trude Diamond, Davonne Irion, Carol Hamilton, Eloise Hardman, Marlene Calderone (treasurer) and Anne Burnham (secretary).

Minutes (September 24th): Accepted'

Treasurer's Report: Marlene questioned whether she had received a complete report from bookkeeping, which is undergoing reorganization. She could verify that \$1,160.92 is the accurate balance in Acct. #9550 (SJC Budget); any revisions to her report will be presented at the next meeting. Eloise advised Marlene that one of the changes in bookkeeping is that notes can no longer be attached to requests for payment; a separate note can say, e.g., "approved by SJC, check coming."

New and Continuing Issues

- 1) Film project: no report
- 2) SJC Planning Day/Visioning Retreat: Linda decided we needed to set a date for the retreat, so we selected Nov. 19th (one of the two dates that was on hold for the NAMI filming). The retreat will include the usual agenda items for regular meetings. We will meet in person from 9AM-noon; snacks will be provided.
- 3) Environmental Justice Committee rebirth(?): Carol V., Eloise and Barb Shimer met and set Oct. 25th at 7PM on Zoom for the first meeting. Anne mentioned that there is a meeting of Create Climate Justice (UU Side with Love) at exactly the same time; Linda will attend that on Zoom and summarize for us what was discussed. Linda also commented that the EJC wouldn't necessarily need to have monthly meetings.
- 4) Open Issues: Loré Eargle wondered if we had any topics we'd like to recommend for Open Issues. Linda suggested having one on Christian nationalism, also FAST and Racial Justice; Eloise suggested the beans & rice and blankets for the migrant programs we do.
- 5) Ft. Myers event: Rev. Amy alerted us to a Florida Poor Peoples Campaign rally and press event on Nov. 5th in Ft. Myers. The purpose is to demand real relief and real recovery for poor and low-income people in the wake of Hurricane Ian and the decades of policy violence against the marginalized. Carol offered to organize a collection of relief supplies; she'll check with Rev. Amy about that. Trude offered to organize a caravan from UUC to Ft. Myers and Anne volunteered to write up a petition that UUCers could sign; both forms will be available for members to sign at the SJC table tomorrow. Linda will check with the FPPC for additional info and post on the e-Octagram. (Linda had already checked with Jay Hardman and Chris Mueller who have events at UUC that day; no problem.)

Committee Reports

- 1) Migrant Farmworkers: no report from Harriet but Linda mentioned that following her last SJC Report two people expressed interest in helping with rice & beans and blankets; she will check with Harriet about the current status.
- 2) Racial Justice: Several UUCers attended the informative Pinellas County African American Museum talk "100 Years of Voter Suppression" on Sept. 30th, which included conversation about tactics for combatting recent and future voter suppression measures. Trude and Soledad Vasquer are talking with Rev. Amy to plan 2023 events for the Arts2Hearts program that grew out of the 8th Principle consensus process. Linda would like us to think about how UUC can build a relationship with the PCAAM. There was discussion about offering meeting space at UUC but they would probably rather keep meeting in their own community. Linda would like to see more of us go to their events in Greenwood.
- 3) FAST: The three issues selected for this coming year (affordable housing, law enforcement and water quality) will be voted on at the General Assembly, which will be held at First Baptist Church on Gandy Blvd. on Oct. 24th at 7PM. Linda mentioned that there will be a stakeholder meeting on the issue of criminal justice for misdemeanors at Temple B'nai Israeal on Belcher Rd. on Oct. 27th at 3PM; police chiefs and other officials have been invited.

- 4) Compassion & Choices: Anne reported that the *Dr. Phil Show* on Oct. 13th discussed medical aid in dying and featured national officials from Compassion & Choices. The Clearwater group was appreciative of receiving a journal that Sandy Gourdine's son kept, at her request, of her final days with ALS when she chose VSED (voluntarily stopping eating and drinking.) Also, Anne recently attended a luncheon in Naples that the C&C group there organized.
- 5) Refugee Task Force: Barb Foley sent a message that ESOL classes will start the first or second week of November. The Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services clothing giveaway scheduled at UUC for Oct. 15th was cancelled.
- 6) LULAC: no report

Other: NAACP Souls to the Polls is looking for drivers on Nov. 6th, the last day of early voting, following church services that day; more info following the NAACP mtg. on Oct. 23rd. Carol H. attended a meeting of the Dunedin group that organizes the International Day of Peace walk there; she'll update us when she learns about future plans.

Social Justice Report (Oct. 23rd): FPPC rally in Ft. Myers and signups at SJC table; Zoom meeting to discuss possible startup of Environmental Justice Committee (contact Eloise); drivers needed for Souls to the Polls.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM. The next meeting/RETREAT will be in person at UUC on Sat., Nov. 19th from 9AM to noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Burnham