

Social Justice Council Meeting – July 17, 2021

Attendees – Linda S. – Chair; Susan A. & Barb F. – Substitute Secretaries; Marlene C. – Treasurer; Eloise H. – BOT Liaison; Carole V.; Eliseo S, Natasha C.-K., Susan H.

Meeting called to order at 10:20 (due to technical glitches) by Linda.

Last month's minutes – Moved to approve without changes by Eloise, seconded by Eliseo

School Supply Collection – Organized by Linda with support from the Council.

The donations will benefit a new program housed at the Clearwater African American Museum that provides an art program for children in the Greenwood neighborhood. Carole agreed to join Linda at UUC to collect donations. Linda will take the supplies to the program at a time designated by them – Tues., 7/20 6:30pm – 8pm. Eliseo will try to join her there.

Share the Plate – Linda asked for Council input prior to Marlene and her meeting with Rev. Roberta. After some discussion, the group decided to put the following in place for a trial period through Dec. 2021. These plans combine a return to some of our pre-pandemic traditions and procedures adopted during the pandemic that we would like to continue, at least for now:

1. Share the Plate will resume this fall when services resume in the Octagon.
2. All money collected onsite during the service that is not specified for a UUC member's pledge will be split between UUC and the designated organization of the month.
3. The Share the Plate Sunday will be the first Sunday of every month.
4. One organization will be designated each month to receive our donations.
5. On the Share the Plate Sunday, a brief 2-minute video provided by the organization will be shared during the service to explain their mission and needs.
6. Information about the selected agency will also be provided in an article in the E-O and in the announcement section of the Order of Service.
7. Throughout the month, folks will be able to donate a full amount to the agency without splitting it with UUC by donating online with the dropdown box that specifies the SJ collection. Instructions need to be added to the website to make our new donation policies clear.
8. Members are encouraged to share information on social media about our organization of the month and one's ability to donate to them through the UUC website.

COVID Community Outreach – August is expected to be the last month for this project (pending a final decision on when live services will resume). The August organization is Clothes for Kids.

Treasurer's Report – Marlene reported that accounting of our funds with the current treasury staff at UUC continues to go well. They are asking for more exact numbers to the cents; i.e., no rounding off. Some collections for our Community COVID relief agencies were more robust than others. The smallest was the recent collection for the Neighborly Care Network that brought in less than \$300. Funds continue to be limited this year. Therefore, the Council decided that Marlene could take no more than \$50 per organization out of our general SJ funds to add to donations as needed. (For example, if \$270 was donated for an organization by the congregation, she could add \$30 to make it an even \$300.) The Better World Fund money continues to be available for emergency fund raising needs (e.g., an earthquake in Haiti, the fires in CA & WA).

An agenda item for our meeting next month is whether and how we could solicit and use donations to augment our UUC budget and meet general SJ Council needs.

Committee reports were somewhat abbreviated during this meeting due to time constraints.

The Racial Justice Committee will be working on a special presentation to introduce and inform the congregation on the proposed 8th UU principal. This coming year, participants will be able to read, study, and take classes dealing with white supremacy and racism in ourselves and in institutions.

Fast meetings will resume in September.

Next meeting will be by Zoom and is scheduled for Aug. 21.

Minutes submitted by Susan A., with the assistance of Barbara F.