

Social Justice Council Meeting

May 28, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 in the Patio Room. Attending in person: Linda Stoller (chair), Trude Diamond, Barbara Czech, Christina Bellamy and Anne Burnham (secy.) Attending on Zoom: Davonne Irion, Eloise Hardman (board liaison), Harriet Ha-Sidi, Marlene Calderone, Carole Vaughn and Susan Allen.

Minutes (April 16): Approved (with correction of a typo). Linda requested that committee chairs send Anne their reports in writing before the meetings to make her job easier. After considerable discussion, the group agreed to have the minutes posted to the SJC page on the UUC website, rather than the password-protected Member page (with a note advising about the change).

Treasurer's Report (April): Marlene reported that there was about \$70 left in the SJC account at the close of the fiscal year. Joe Pace, UUC treasurer, has said that it is possible to show records for all 12 months of the year (previously only 10 were included because all totals were not available when books were closed), so now the year-end report will give the congregation a complete accounting each year.

BLUU (Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism) has requested a 3-year commitment from UU congregations for its capacity building. Marlene said that we don't have the funds in the SJC budget as it stands now; Trude and others said it was important to have the congregation directly involved with this in order to make it part of our 8th Principle goals. The final decision was to have BLUU be the recipient of one month's Community Outreach for the next 3 years; in addition, we could have a fundraiser (e.g., love donation for film showing) or possibly withdraw funds from the Racial Justice budget. Linda will talk with Margie about the BLUU donation and ask for a vote on naming BLUU as a recipient of Community Outreach for the next 3 years.

New and Continuing Issues

- 1) Film Series: Christina will be doing research during the summer so that we can make definite plans for startup in the fall. She sees the goals as honoring the 8th Principle, widening the circle, addressing diversity and having it a social event (perhaps a potluck) for the community. Barb had looked at the Women Make Movies website and *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* film about women rising up in Liberia. Anne suggested *The Story of Plastic* but found that churches don't meet the criteria for a free screening, but perhaps we could work with the Sierra Club on this. Joining with other groups would be ideal, not only to share expenses but to also to widen the circle; e.g., with the NAACP to show *The Thirteenth* or another documentary. The UUA might also be a resource for documentaries, as well as Brave New Films.
- 2) Pride Parade: The OWL group has arranged to have a booth at the June 18th LGBTQ+ Youth & Family Day in St. Pete and they have secured a banner and tent for it. UUC and UU St. Pete are teaming up for the parade on June 25th. UU St. Pete has offered a vehicle to tow Jay Hardman's utility trailer so that those who are unable to walk the route will have a "float" to ride on. The event will run from 4-7 PM (may need to provide sun umbrellas).
- 3) Social Justice table/bulletin board: access will be available every other Sunday when in-person services are being held at UUC.
- 4) Postcard writing + NAACP Get Out the Vote: Barb wants to change the wording on the postcards that we are writing; Davonne says tweaking the message should be okay with

Broward County (that is supplying the lists for our area), agreed shorter is better. We hope to have summer events for postcard writing.

Linda spoke with Phil Stone, campaign coordinator for the Clearwater/Upper Pinellas County Branch of the NAACP, about its 2022 GOTV campaign. They will be hiring young Black and Latino canvassers for North Pinellas where there are racially similar residents who didn't vote in recent elections. Linda will get zip codes from Phil to make sure we send postcards to those NAACP-targeted zones.

- 5) Social Justice report: Linda will give monthly SJC report at tomorrow's service.
- 6) Welcoming Rev. Amy: Chuck Shimer and Harriet are in charge of organizing welcoming activities for our new minister. We need to find the best way to acquaint Rev. Amy with our social justice work and identify things we want to work.

Committee Reports

- 1) Migrant farmworkers: In the interest of time, Harriet just reported that there are lots of marches going on around the country.
- 2) Racial Justice: Trude spoke about a new program in the planning stages: "Art to Heart." Performing/visual, etc. artists from Pinellas County will be invited to UUC as a way to have our congregants, and others in North Pinellas, become familiar with different cultural backgrounds. Barb questioned the cost; should be workable since we have a free venue and if need be, there are grant writers available. The sound system in the Octagon would need to be stabilized.
- 3) FAST is collecting signatures on postcards addressed to Sheriff Gualtieri re: expanding the pre-arrest diversion program. On June 30th at 10 AM there will be a press conference/rally to deliver the postcards to the sheriff. Meanwhile FAST's investment drive is continuing.
- 4) Compassion & Choices: Anne reported that there will be no meetings from June through August.
- 5) Refugee Task Force: Barb Foley is out of town.
- 6) LULAC: no report from Eliseo.

The next SJC meeting will be on **June 25th** (fourth Saturday) at **9:30 AM** on **Zoom only**.
Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Burnham