

Social Justice Council Meeting

March 25, 2023

The Zoom-only meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM. Attending: Linda Stoller (chair), Natasha Cruz-Knopf, Carole Vaughn, Marlene Calderone (treasurer), Harriet Ha-Sidi (liaison to the Board), Carol Hamilton, Rev. Amy Kindred, Patti Thomas Hanks (ministerial intern) and Anne Burnham (secretary). Check-in followed. (Anne was absent for the start of the meeting due to a sudden virus takeover of her computer; Carole kindly stepped in to take minutes until Anne could get on a different computer.)

Minutes (February 25th): Accepted as revised.

New and Continuing Issues

- 1) Pride Parade 2023 (St. Pete, June 24th): The Family Day is June 10th (10-2); Megan Foley and Lifelong Learning want to support it again and are registering for it. Linda contacted UU St. Pete and UU Tarpon Springs about their interest in the parade; UU St. Pete wants to walk with us, may provide truck and flatbed for a float. It is expensive to participate (\$400); Marlene has authorized \$250 from the UUC budget, hopefully the other two UU churches can contribute as well. Linda will be checking about Dunedin's Pride Month to see whether UUC can be involved with that as well.
- 2) Upcoming Events List: Carol came up with the idea of sending out a monthly list of Social Justice events, along with requests for volunteers where needed, in order to have timely info all in one place. She sent out an email with a test list based on upcoming dates Trude and Christina supplied. Linda had some members say that they would like more advance notice about events. Carol suggested that she could send it out after she receives the monthly SJC minutes. She feels sending the list via email is the best way to reach everyone for this, rather than Facebook. There will be two types of events: community events (which are generally not listed in the e-Octagram) and on-site (UUC) events. Carol's name would be listed as the contact person in the e-Octagram for anyone who wants to subscribe. Rev. Amy also suggested having a "here is the link" for the list in the e-Octagram that readers can click on; Carol will check with Lauren about ease of doing that. Carol will also gather info from members about other "actions of public witness," which she may put in a separate category. It is up to Carol to decide how far into the future events should be listed.
- 3) Banned Books Event (May 6-7): Carole is the contact person for this event. She said the committee had a first meeting and she has been in touch with Adam via email. A press release and flyer are needed. The book giveaway will be on May 6th from 11-1:00 in the UUC parking lot, with blueberry lemonade and challenge cookies as a fundraiser! Adam will be in the pulpit on Sunday for a short time before the congregational meeting. Marlene expressed concern about security for the event; Carole said that the local police have been notified. Rev. Amy said that UUC's Gary Strauss needs to be contacted as well. Help from everyone is needed to publicize the event; some libraries post free events.
- 4) Save Public Schools: Linda reported that Kathy Krohn is recommending UUC members support Families for Strong Public Schools. The group is asking people to speak at school board meetings and also thank the board members for working in harmony in such contentious times.
- 5) End-of-Year SJC Report: All committee chairs need to write a brief report about their specific area of responsibility, to be included in the annual meeting packet. The deadline to get the reports to Linda is April 5th. The Finance Committee needs to know if there are any new groups to be included in the budget. Marlene mentioned that the Pat McGivern Account has some funds available for projects.
- 6) SJC Logo: Kelly Tew emailed members her design for an SJC logo and asked for feedback. Rev. Amy thought that it catches attention, other members were also enthusiastic about it. Carol could use it for her list and it can be sent out to other groups to announce our events. SJC members voted to approve it.



Treasurer's Report

Marlene reported that everything is good with the budget, albeit closer than usual. The balance in the 9550 Account is \$664.67. \$650 is already committed; there are also a few other items in the pipeline and Share the Plate needs to be settled. \$75 was received for the Better World Emergency Fund; a donation from an Anderson family member will be posted next month. Marlene mentioned that when funds are received at the end of the month it can be problematic because some go to that month and some to the next. She wants to leave the \$210 for blankets in the In & Out Account and dispense it in the fall; Maria has offered to take the blankets to the camps. Marlene said that the Rice & Beans money has been disbursed, as stipulated in the January minutes. Marlene will be able to make the \$400 donation for Adam Tritt's event on the Foundation 451 website.

Share the Plate: Discussion about Americares (Marlene's recommendation, for Ukraine), Project Dynamo (Harriet's suggestion, veterans group that rescues civilians from Afghanistan and Ukraine) and NAMI (was tabled because of urgency of situations in Syria/Turkey and Ukraine). Final outcome:

April: Americares, for Ukraine (more research needed re: Project Dynamo)

May: NAMI (was originally scheduled for March)

June: Equality Florida (was originally scheduled for April)

Committee Reports

- 1) Racial Justice: Trude will be publicizing the May 13th Arts Unite Us event more broadly than the UUC Communications platforms. Anne sent her the contact info she had from publicizing the C&C event at UUC to merge with what Trude already had.
- 2) Refugee Task Force: no new report from Barb Foley; ESL classes at UUC are ongoing every Saturday morning.
- 3) FAST: Nehemiah is next Monday, the 27th; Linda will be away, Loré Eargle is the point person.
- 4) Compassion & Choices: Anne was pleased with the UUC turnout for the *Wooden Nickels* screening a week ago. Despite extensive publicity on the part of the core team members, community attendance was low; spreading the word continues to be a challenge.
- 5) LULAC: Eliseo could not be at the meeting, as he was setting up the CPR training event for the Hispanic community in the Social Hall, which some UUC members will be participating in.
- 6) Environmental Justice: no report

SJC Report, with Trude subbing for Linda this Sunday: Nehemiah; Harriet will ask Trude to include info about blanket storage and co-chair needed for Migrant Justice Committee

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM. The next Zoom-only meeting will be on Sat., April 29th at 10 AM—the 5th Saturday rather than the 4th so that members can participate in Earth Day activities on the 22nd.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Burnham