

**UUC Social Justice Council Meeting
April 17, 2021, Zoom Meeting
MINUTES**

The Mission of the UUC Social Justice Council is to facilitate communication and cooperation between the Council members, Social Justice Committees, UUC Board of Trustees, UUC congregation, and the wider community.

Meeting Chair – Linda Stoller, Secretary – Marcia Bailey

Present: Marcia Bailey, Marlene Calderone, Barb Foley, Eliseo Santana, and Linda Stoller.

Linda opened the meeting with a reading, and we had a brief check-in.

Barb moved approval of the corrected minutes of March 20, 2021, and Eliseo seconded that. Motion passed.

Marlene gave the treasurer's report and answered some questions. Marcia moved approval of the report and Eliseo seconded that. Motion passed.

Linda moved to increase the donation to The Haven from \$470 to \$500. Marcia seconded the motion which passed.

Marlene mentioned she had received some very nice thank you notes from previous donations. She will write up something for the E-Octagram, including small excerpts from those notes.

New and Continuing Issues:

We delayed deciding who would give the SJ report tomorrow until we determined what we wanted to have included.

There are no plans for evening or open issues from our members.

Marlene reported that there are five locations for the Women on the Way charity. If we give \$500 from the McGivern Fund, they will select a woman from each location to receive a \$100 gift card. Marcia moved we do that and Barb seconded the motion which passed.

The representative of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers gave an excellent presentation at the Sunday service.

LULAC is the organization for May's donations. Linda suggested having some of the LULAC youth present for the congregation. Eliseo will contact Margie Manning to set that up. Marlene and Eliseo will discuss what to put in the E-Octagram about LULAC.

The organization for June is Neighborly. We will discuss that further in May.

Susan Allen and Harriet attended the Cluster Meeting. They were not present to report.

Linda reported that St Pete Pride will celebrate in June with different activities each week. The activities will be ticketed in order to control the size of the crowds. She would like UUC to lend some support to that effort. She will follow up with that.

The report of the state Legislative Session was discouraging. The announcements on FB and email were good, but the representatives seemed to have made up their minds about their votes ahead of time, perhaps following an agenda that may have been handed down from the Republican National Committee.

Committee Reports:

It is almost time for the Annual Report, so committee chairs should prepare a report soon.

Migrant Justice – no report.

Racial Justice is discussing how to proceed toward have UUC adopt the 8th Principle for the whole congregation. Information about that suggests that it will help bring young people and diverse people into our congregation.

FAST – the Nehemiah Event was wonderful. FAST is doing the service April 25th about change. The Joshua Assembly is May 10th. On April 22nd the county commissioners will hold a meeting about affordable housing and the use of the Sandousky Fund, tax money which realtors pay. FAST will have representatives attending to try to make sure that the money is actually used for affordable housing. The Legislature wants to divert money from the fund to other projects.

Refugee Task Force – the group didn't have a shower but sent gifts to the member who is expecting a baby. They are concerned that President Biden has not changed the number of refugees to be admitted to the country as he had promised to do. There was a quilt at Allendale Church and a meeting about refugees. The group hopes to follow up with more action in the Fall.

Compassion & Choices – the meetings start with videos to generate attendance and discussion. Marcia is still trying to speak to BIPOC about planning for end-of-life care and informing their families of their wishes.

Puerto Rico – LULAC participated in getting the quilt about Refugees brought to the Allendale Church. There was a donation of 4500 books in Spanish and English to help children learn English. Also the group confronted the government about their ignoring of the Domestic Language Testing Law which was enacted so that young immigrants

would be tested on the knowledge they need for graduating from high school in the language they know. Florida has been testing students only in English.

Fair Trade – no report

Meeting Adjourned:

Next meeting is Sat., May 15, 2021

Marcia Bailey, Secretary