

JUSTICE MINISTRIES COORDINATING TEAM MEETING

April 2, 2019

6:30 – 8:40 pm

Location: Leffler House

Members Present: Emily Austin, Christopher Breunig, Bob Chapman, Karen Knudson, Julia Logan, Justin Mills, David Wagner, Carolyn White.

Members Absent: Betsy Bell, Barbara Erickson, Brett Bowton-Meade, Micah Kurtz, Dale Largent, Sue Ratner, Tom Sunderland

Guests: Amanda Clark, the Rev. Dr. Marilyn Cornwell

Opening prayer

Bob opened the meeting at 6:35pm with a prayer.

Hate Crimes/Hate Speech De-escalation Ministry

Amanda clarified that the Hate Crimes Ministry has “sunsetting.” She has taken responsibility for Hate Speech De-escalation actions. She will reach out to those who had originally been part of the Hate Crimes group to offer them option of continuing on with the remaining group. Then she will propose appropriate titles that group will read and seek consensus from interested folks.

Review of March Minutes

- **ACTION1:** Justin checked with Amanda Clark who attended tonight’s meeting.
- **ACTION2:** Follow-up with Adam Conley regarding Service Corps volunteering to take care of the Urban Garden is an unfinished piece. Carolyn had talked briefly with Adam who indicated that several Corps members would be leaving about the time that, if planted, the garden might produce. Karen reviewed downsides of gardening in the Leffler side garden which include the shade from the huge chestnut tree, the dilapidated condition of fence along the sidewalk and the need to cut down the apple tree. Once again there was discussion that a core, sizeable group of folks interested in gardening needed to be mobilized. David agreed to place a call for interested folks in S & B before out next meeting.
- **ACTION3:** Re: JMCT recruitment. Carolyn has requested a table in nave for Sunday, April 7th. She and Tom will be present and all JMCT members are invited also to answer questions and assess if anyone expresses interest in joining the Team. Specifically a Treasurer is needed—not an arduous job. No one has stepped forward to approach the 20’s & 30’s group for potential interest.
- Carolyn requested clarification as to whether Maris Olsen would be interested in joining JMCT. She was invited and declined.

MOTION was made to approve the March 12, 2019 minutes as amended. Passed.

Sanctuary Ministry: It was agreed that at present there are no identified tasks other than those Steve referred to in his letter to us. Further information will be disseminated at Wednesday night’s Commons presentation.

Homeless Advocacy Updates

David Wagner continues to update us:

1. The GOOD NEWS is that first quarterly report for the \$25,000 that has been handed over to SHC services has been posted and he will distribute to us. David confirmed that the several service ministries within SMC in areas of hunger and homelessness are positive about meeting to determine in what ways greater coordination can result. The Bishop's Task Force, on which he, Emily Austin and Marilyn Cornwell are members, continue in the data collection phase across the Diocese with hopes to have an initial report by Convention – November.
2. Workshops/training related to advocacy continue under direction of Rev. Marilyn Cornwell continue.

Justice –what does it mean for us? Following through with our stated intent to further discuss our personal and group commitment to Justice, the Rev. Dr. Cornwell opened with a quotation from Bishop Romero: “A church that does not provoke any crises, a gospel that does not unsettle, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed—what gospel is that?” Several Scriptural readings followed as the frame for which we “do” justice. The ensuing discussion centered around what advocacy will look like, how to get “proximate” with those we seek to serve. *(at this point your volunteer notetaker closed her computer to listen and participate)* Personal and deeply felt observations were offered. ACTION ITEM: Marilyn challenged us to listen carefully to those with whom we interact one on one and ask in follow up “what am I hearing.”

In deference the hour, items listed under **Church Council of Greater Seattle, Faith Action Network, and Care for Creation Pledge** were briefly referred to and, if still relevant will be included in the May meeting agenda.

Looking ahead: A community celebration of 100 years of community, service, and justice as the Church Council of Greater Seattle will occur on *Saturday, June 1, 2019_at Plymouth Congregational UCC, 1217 6th Ave., Seattle 98101.* Expected gathering time at 6 p.m.

We closed by joining together in the Prayer for the Homeless. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next meeting: May 7th, 6:30 pm in Leffler House

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn White

Justice Ministries Mission Statement

- To engage the St. Mark's community in justice issues
- To acknowledge and address our own complicity in injustice
- To serve and support those who are in need
- To advocate for peace and economic justice
- To pursue sustainability and ecological justice
- To partner with other congregations and organizations serving and providing opportunities to those in need
- To celebrate the opportunity to serve