

# JUSTICE MINISTRIES COORDINATING TEAM MEETING MINUTES

May 7, 2019  
Leffler House

**Members Present:** Emily Austin, Micah Kurtz, Nancy Ross, Carolyn White and Barbara Erickson.

**Members Absent:** Betsy Bell, Brett Bowton-Meade, Chris Breunig, Tom Campbell, Bob Chapman, Karen Knudson, Dale Largent, Justin Mills, Sue Ratner, Tom Sunderland, Steve Thomason, David Wagner.

## **Opening Prayer**

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

## **Review Previous Minutes**

Minutes from the April meeting will be reviewed at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **St. Columba Garden Ministry**

Micah Kurtz, Diocesan Representative to the Vestry, talked about how St. Columba's Garden Ministry, Just Garden Guild, got its start and what they have experienced. Participation is an issue; currently the church does not have a garden, but there is potential for a wheat garden in the Fall or a community garden managed by Seattle Tilth.

Discussion returned to the location and history of our gardens (Urban and Kitchen) and the issues around maintenance. The Kitchen Garden produce had been used as ingredients for the Noel House soup, but with the shelter being open only Sunday and Monday nights now, the ongoing care of that garden is uncertain. There is no maintenance of Urban Garden currently. A further discussion is needed to identify its purpose prior to determining wider interest by placing an article in the Sundays & Beyond. A side note: St. Columba may be an alternative church home for Susan Ratner now that she has relocated to that area. Several parishioners attend St. Mark's and another parish.

## **Homeless Advocacy – Standing Updates**

David Wagner is out of town, but Carolyn White was able to provide a recap of what ministries are supporting the homeless at Saint Mark's as well as each of the four areas on the agenda to provide Micah Kurtz with an idea of what we are doing at Saint Mark's. Community Lunch is happening on Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> led by Dale Largent.

## **Faith Action Network and Other Legislative Advocacy Updates**

Tom Sunderlund's email is bouncing, so communication may not be reaching him. Issues supported by Faith Action Network include advocating for Alliance for Gun Responsibility; Keep Washington Working – domestic workers bill of rights. Presentation of issues to the parish and more members attending FAN's two annual meetings desired.

Carolyn and five others from SMC attended the Alliance for Gun Responsibility Luncheon whose vision is to make each community safe from the devastating consequences of gun violence. One of the speakers was founder of #ThisIsOurLane; he is the father of one of the Parkland victims. They also learned about The Soul Box Project which is a national community art project to raise awareness of victims of gunfire in the US. Discussion ensued about possible interest at Saint Mark's and ways to

provide an opportunity to make and send in boxes; benefit is the healing that comes from folding a box. Carolyn will check with Liz Shea and Stacy Anderson to explore to which groups this might appeal? Youth Group?

Church Council of Greater Seattle is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at 6pm at Plymouth Church on June 1, 2019. The reception will follow at 9 pm in support of the observance of Ramadan. Because Saint Mark's is a member and the Church Council has been instrumental in supporting our work as a Sanctuary congregation, we are encouraged to attend this interfaith celebration. To read more about what is planned, please visit: <https://thechurchcouncil.org/100th-anniversary/>

### **How can we as a team Promote Justice?**

Emily Austin led our consideration of how we can live into being "people of justice." Emily was at the Justice Center for nonviolence social justice in Atlanta last month, and Martin Luther King's six principles of non-violence seemed to be appropriate. The six principles along with a quote from Coretta Scott King, and the Challenge of Justice from the Just War article were read aloud and reflected on.

*Principle One: Nonviolence is a way of Life for courageous people* and *Principle Four: Nonviolence can educate and transform* brought about much discussion about how they apply to different issues of today. MLK wrote these early in his life, but at the end of his life, there were times when violence was necessary.

We ended this discussion with the question: How does our church show that *Principle Six: Nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice?* Through our service, sermons, our non-violence – talk with those we disagree with and to be in community with those we disagree with and we pray that justice will eventually win – faith.

### **Closing prayer**

Emily led the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm.

**Next meeting** will be on Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in Leffler House.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Erickson

#### 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