

JUSTICE MINISTRIES COORDINATING TEAM
MEETING MINUTES
July 9, 2019
Cathedral House, Room 210

Members Present: Emily Austin, Brett Bowton-Meade, Chris Breunig, Micah Kurtz, Dale Largent, Nancy Ross, David Wagner, Carolyn White and Barbara Erickson.

Members Absent: Betsy Bell, Bob Chapman, Karen Knudson, Justin Mills, Sue Ratner, Tom Sunderland, and Steve Thomason.

Guest: Marilyn Cornwell

Opening Prayer

Justin opened the meeting at 6:38pm and Emily Austin led us in the opening prayer. This evening's meeting is devoted to the review of Marilyn Cornwall's findings on Homeless Advocacy during her work at Saint Mark's.

What are you hearing? What's up in the St. Mark's community re: faith in action?

To begin the discussion, we reviewed the Capabilities/Skills and Parking Lot items from a previous session. Marilyn then asked what we were hearing within the Saint Mark's community about what is going on. Response was climate change and on a broader level, regarding Seattle City Council candidates and concerns about homelessness and climate change and geopolitical impacts. There is a feeling that we are in disordered times, and we are searching for order.

Marilyn offered an anecdotal story about downhill skiers and how they really lean forward as they soar through the skies. We, too, need to lean into what's happening. We have more control when we lean in.

We then moved on to goals that were identified from the Capabilities/Skills. Two goals resulted, which could be worked on separately or simultaneously or prioritized. We were asked to contemplate which area spoke to us – Goal I – Civic Conversations or Goal II – Building Relationships.

Discussion ensued mainly on Goal I, item 3: Collaborative Community Programs and Goal II, item 3: People with Lived Experience.

Goal I.3. Saint Mark's is seen and remembered as a leader in the homeless advocacy area when we hosted the Interfaith Homelessness Task Force meetings and were involved with the 10-Year Plan. Marilyn mentioned that Steve, in the past, has expressed interest in a cathedral community forum with others to begin generating meaningful work in this area. The Gates Foundation has been very successful in their endeavors and it was suggested that we might want to apply the same techniques they use to faith communities.

Discussion evolved into how we find out what our community cares about to galvanize them on a project. A strong point was made that we who have a serious interest in this Justice endeavor must get to know someone(s) who are currently homeless. Possible points of connection include St. Luke's in Ballard; Interbay Safe Harbor/Tiny House; Community Lunch program; St. Brigid's feeding men at the St. Martin de Porres shelter or Teen Feed program are current involvements; we could then invite parishioners to attend, and thereby get proximity with these projects. There was also the suggestion that this could happen at the Ministry Fair.

As we wrapped up the meeting, Marilyn asked that we initiate a conversation with one parishioner we don't know and report the experience back to this committee.

Closing prayer

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

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 6th 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