

# JUSTICE MINISTRIES COORDINATING TEAM MEETING

March 12, 2019

6:30 – 9:00 pm

Location: Leffler House

**Members Present:** Emily Austin, Betsy Bell, Brett Bowton-Meade, Karen Knudson, Julia Logan, Justin Mills, Tom Sunderland, David Wagner, Carolyn White, and Barbara Erickson.

**Members Absent:** Christopher Breunig, Dale Largent, and Sue Ratner

**Guests:** Mary Segall and Maris Olsen

## **Opening prayer**

Barbara opened the meeting at 6:33pm with a prayer.

## **Midwest Focus Ministry**

Mary Seagall introduced a proposal, From Theology to Practice: Principles of Solidarity, for exploring the theory of solidarity and goals in a workshop that would be open to any justice ministry interested in partnering. Julia Logan suggested that Mary speak with Nancy Ross - JMCT clergy contact; Jennifer Daugherty - Canon for Community Life (among other things, her particular focus is on community life, as well as cultural competency); and Cristi Chapman, about the possibility of a Sunday forum or Wednesday evening Cathedral Commons offering. Suggestion for reading: *Happiness and a Christian Moral Life* by Paul Wadell.

## **St. Brigid's Banquet Ministry – Update**

Maris Olsen is the coordinator for the Teen Feed that happens six times a year on a Friday night for a three-hour commitment. Volunteers are needed to help serve meals to 30 – 35 kids.

Brenda Schoolfield is the coordinator for St. Martin de Porres, another feeding program for 200 – 250 people that happens on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. It takes 18 people to cook, serve and clean-up. Emergency situation where five servers are needed this coming Sunday, 17 March from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Location is 1551 Alaskan Way South. Brainstorm took place on how to recruit volunteers: 20's & 30s Facebook page, Sundays & Beyond, and a table in the Nave. Email Maris at [Maris.olsen@gmail.com](mailto:Maris.olsen@gmail.com)

**Racial Reconciliation - Update** - Update and feedback on proposal – Brett Bowton-Meade provided a recap of the Edwin Pratt Celebration. 140 – 150 people were in attendance. The event was recorded, and Charles Johnson's remarks are now part of the public record. Miriam Pratt has moved to Seattle! Brett is discerning what's next for him. Opportunities are available, and he is attending Mt Zion Baptist Church on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Brett was also invited to become a member of this committee. He accepted!

Suggestion was that a good follow-up would have been to provide an opportunity to learn about the history of African Americans in Seattle.

## **Review January 8th Minutes**

Correction was made to the January minutes to correct the spelling of Christopher Breunig's last name. Clarification points with the December minutes:

- Sue Ratner is still hospitalized, so **ACTION1:** Justin will check with Amanda Clark about the Hate/De-escalation Ministry.

- **ACTION2:** Follow-up with Adam Conley regarding Service Corps volunteering to take care of the Urban Garden

**MOTION** was made to approve the January 8, 2019 minutes as amended. Carolyn White/Betsy Bell/Carried.

### **JMCT Member Recruitment**

Discussed options to promote visibility of this committee to recruit members. Sundays and Beyond announcements and having a table in the Nave on Sundays to explain who we are and what we do was made. **ACTION1:** Carolyn will make the table request to Glenn Sands and Tom and Carolyn will be the first staffers. **ACTION2:** David volunteered to write up the article for Sundays & Beyond. **ACTION3:** Need a Treasurer. Besides the Sundays & Beyond announcement, suggestion made to visit the Coffee Group, they meet in Fremont; talk with the 20's & 30's group.

### **Faith Action Network – Update**

Tom Sunderland provided a recap of the many bills that are currently in the House and Senate. Tom expressed his view that the issues are turning partisan and these should be non-partisan issues. Determining a way to communicate legislative actions to the parish is being looked at as several bills are FAN and faith-based issues. Recommendation was made that this meeting provide Tom more time to educate the committee on Justice Ministry issues. Discussion about communication to the parish also ensued. As a result of this conversation, Tom became a member of the committee. Welcome Tom!

### **Alliance for Gun Responsibility Luncheon**

Tom Sunderland announced that the luncheon will be held on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton Hotel at noon and a notice will be in Sundays & Beyond. Saint Mark's will have a table so if you are interested in attending, contact Stacy Andersen at [andersenbicknell@gmail.com](mailto:andersenbicknell@gmail.com).

### **Homeless Advocacy Updates**

David Wagner provided a recap on:

1. Threshold Fund Hunger & Homelessness Advocacy Initiative SMC Hunger & Homelessness Collaboration Initiative Bishop's Task Force on Homelessness: There are applications! First quarterly report will be available in April. David's vision is that all hunger and homelessness ministries form a collaborative effort to maximize resources. The Bishop's Task Force, he and Marilyn Cornwell are members, are in the data collection phase across the Diocese with hopes to have an initial report by Convention – November.
2. First workshop related to advocacy will be led by Rev. Marilyn Cornwell and will focus on advocacy and justice. David believes that charity, giving as we do at church, doesn't fix the problems, the root cause needs to be identified and addressed. He encourages our ministry to have more Tom Sunderland and FAN time at our meetings, and reminds us: Cornell West – "Justice is what love looks like in public." Learn about justice rather than charity. What's our role in this community? To be a minister of justice and model to parish. **ACTION:** Have Marilyn come speak at our April meeting.

### **Reformat the meeting:**

Suggestions were to 1) focus on justice for the last 30 minutes or so, with group providing the material for the discussion, 2) have more concise presentations by the ministries by requesting they send us a paragraph of what ministry is about prior to the meeting.

**Loose Plate Collections** - Potential portion of recurring plate collections to Justice Ministries. Justin Mills, discussed this may coincide with JMCT table in the Nave opportunities.

- a. This morning's plate offering will go to the Justice ministry for \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. **ACTION:** Further clarification by the Dean is required.

**Church Council of Greater Seattle**

Justin provided the following information:

- a. *Thursday, March 28, 2019 for the Church Council of Greater Seattle's Annual Assembly.* This year it will be held at Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard Ave., Seattle 98122. Expected gathering time at 6 p.m.
- b. *Saturday, June 1, 2019 at Plymouth Congregational UCC, 1217 6th Ave., Seattle 98101.* A community celebration of 100 years of community, service, and justice as the Church Council of Greater Seattle. Expected gathering time at 6 p.m.

**JMCT Member**

Marjorie Ringness has different responsibilities now that she is a Vestry member, so she is transitioning out of JMCT. Vestry members Bob Chapman and Micah Kurtz, Diocesan Member will be replacing Julia Logan on this committee. Thank you Julia and Henley for all your work!

**Other Business**

Brett Bowton-Meade

- Potential future endeavor: working with St. Peter's to have their congregation share stories about their experiences and the history of the Japanese interment/incarceration.
- Imam at the Idris Mosque was educated in Egypt and although he does not speak English, he would like to speak at a forum to educate the community about Islam.

Betsy Bell

- Washington Against Nuclear Weapons Coalition, Betsy is seeking names of doctors and nurses.

**Closing prayer**

Carolyn White suggested we read together the Prayer for the Homeless as our closing prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 9:09pm.

**Next meeting:** April 2nd, 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