

JUSTICE MINISTRIES COORDINATING TEAM MEETING

June 4th, 2019 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Leffler Living Room

Present: Betsy Bell; Chris Breunig; Bob Chapman; Dale Largent; Justin Mills; Nancy Ross; David Wagner; Carolyn White;

Not present: Brett Bowton-Meade; Barbara Erickson; Micah Kurtz; Karen Knudson; Susan Ratner; Tom Sunderland

Guests: Cristi Chapman; Marilyn Cornwell; Brian Sellers Petersen; Steve Thomason; Emily Austin; Julia Logan, ex officio.

Steve Thomason opened the meeting with prayer. 6:32

Narthex Restroom Concerns:

Steve had requested that JMCT discuss the issue regarding our leaving our front narthex bathrooms open on days when there are no events scheduled for Nave/Chapel. Earlier the Vestry had previously discussed this. Steve reviewed the problems, mostly encountered by our sextons; central is our question whether we are providing homeless individuals with safety, security, assistance as we meet them. Unsupervised restrooms do not constitute a ministry. Question was raised asking where next closest open restroom/hygiene center is available, none exist currently on Capitol Hill. Closest is on 9th and Seneca. Of particular concern is both a medical and legal issue; harm to staff or visitors who might be exposed the bacteria *Clostridium difficile* (C diff) which resides in stool and for which currently there is no cure; specific procedures are required about how to clean up area and how to follow proper soap/washing; long term decontaminated cleaning can take up to 3 hrs. Because of increase in drug paraphernalia found in our waste containers and elsewhere on campus, Sharp boxes will be placed. Consideration that mentally ill persons are probable cause for most extreme actions that have been encountered.

Our primary importance is keeping our staff and community safe. The church will provide training for those who clean; it will explore if there is a liability issue for installing Sharp boxes. Underlying our discussion is our recognition that intervening with the at-risk population requires trained staff/volunteers; note was made that as of beginning of June, there are no homeless tents in Greenbelt. Arising out of the discussion were other proposed actions which could be explored:

- Research possible collaboration with other organizations on Capitol Hill to through which a shared mobile Urban Wash Stop trailer might be placed or advocate for this at city level;
- Betsy raised option to explore parishioner's willingness to form a ministry of connection/surveillance on days when there is no organized event, but bathrooms could be open. St. James has Hospitality individual. David will follow up and explore potential for hospitality ministry focused on providing welcome to visitors on campus.
- Church might make available more community resources, i.e. map, bus pass.

Vestry will finalize decision next meeting. JMCT consensus was that church needs to respond to the immediate issue, and therefore it is appropriate to close bathrooms for now. Not having bathrooms means we might consider other avenues to extend our care for vulnerable individuals without personal shelter.

Urban Garden Ministry

Brian Sellers-Petersen ceded his presentation time to meet his family obligations; he honored our need to continue the former discussion without interruption; he has introduced a new hive of *Caranolia* bees

to boxes above Bloedel. There was no further discussion of the Garden Ministry at St. Columba Episcopal church in Kent.

Creation Care

At previous meetings the absence of any form of a Creation Care Ministry has been noted. Carolyn pointed out that some heartening steps have occurred. Recently two members of St. Mark's collaborated on a presentation to governing body of our Diocese: Andrew Himes and Penelope Jackson, during which they reviewed the increasing threat that the carbon being released affects health, environmental and economic well-being. Andrew offered a simple mantra as a guide for our actions: **Measure; Reduce; Offset**. Penelope discussed the investment option that is referred to as Sustainable and Responsible Investing. She indicated the rapidly emerging growth in these investments and emphasized that they do not diminish an investor's potential for gain. The Sunday June 23rd Forum provides an opportunity for our parishioners to learn more.

A **carbon offset** is a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere. Many possibilities exist. While supporting such a program is valuable, a speaker stressed importance that one research prior to selecting and designating a recipient. On the Diocesan website (www.ecw.org/climate-creation-care/) several resources are available including the Carbon Offset program which our Diocese established with the Diocese of the Southern Philippines (EDSP). This project is not only sequestering carbon but also providing jobs and income. Its results have been staggering; 70,000 tons have been sequestered in the six years of the program.

Steve is a member of a coalition of community faith leaders who are charged with planning events related to Earth Day 2020 April 1st observances. Currently Marjorie Ringness, Andrew Himes and Judy Andrews have agreed to help widen a group at St. Mark's; this group will oversee our participation. We all hope that both this information and identified programs will stimulate greater interest in a renewed Care for Creation focus within Cathedral. JMCT's task will be to follow the energy and engagement that unfolds and offer support as required. Ideally a new ministry will develop considering what it means for this community of faith to live responsibly as stewards of God's creation.

Preview previous Minutes: This discussion was tabled.

Hunger & Homeless Advocacy

Marilyn Cornwell reviewed work that has occurred with Homeless Advocacy; its identified Goals and Objectives guided her work; a core team is being assembled that will address strategies; the intent is that focusing on steps to address injustice for those without shelter will deepen the personal transformation/conversion as we who have shelter open to the Spirit; to achieve this requires organizing as Joey Apgar, outreach director for the Church Council of Greater Seattle, has described in his work.

100 Anniversary of Church Council of Greater Seattle was noted as a meaningful historic review of its work through the century.

Please note: Next meeting; July 9th; focus on Homeless Advocacy only; August 6th; tbd;

Closing Prayer—Dale Largent

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn White