

JUSTICE MINISTRIES COORDINATING TEAM

August 13th, 2019 Minutes

6:30 – 9:30 pm

Leffler House

Present: Betsy Bell, Brett Bowton-Meade, Bob Chapman, Dale Largent, Justin Mills, and Barbara Erickson.

Not present: Chris Breunig, Micah Kurtz, Karen Knudson, Susan Ratner, Tom Sunderland, David Wagner, and Carolyn White.

Guests: Christine Hanson, Rev. Rich Gamble, Patricia Leckenby, Ruth Mulligan, Marjorie Ringness and Rev. Pat Taylor.

Opening Prayer

Bob Chapman opened the meeting with prayer at 6:34pm.

Review Previous Minutes

A **MOTION** to approve the April 2, May 7, and July 9 meeting minutes as distributed was made and carried. The approved minutes will be sent to the Vestry's dropbox and they will be added to the JMCT website.

Justice Leadership Jubilee

Rev. Rich Gamble, Keystone United Church of Christ (rich.gamble@keystonechurch.org) and Christine Hanson provided an overview of the Justice Leadership Jubilee program which is modeled after Justice Leadership designed for young adults. The Jubilee component is designed for adults and provides an opportunity for individuals to make connections within the faith community and the outside world. Seeking members from Saint Mark's who might be interested in being a part of the Jubilee.

This program has a challenging time commitment: 10-month commitment to the program which includes weekly community work, weekly church involvement, and monthly spiritual reflection and sojourning retreats. Financial support of \$1600 from congregation. With the financial aspect, the next step would be vestry approval. **ACTION:** Bob Chapman will help with the announcements, once approval from the vestry has been obtained.

Creation Care Ministry

Marjorie Ringness and Ruth Mulligan talked about the current Earth Day Northwest 2020 and the history of creation care at Saint Mark's. Advertising in Sundays & Beyond has resulted in 20 people joining and participating in a brainstorming session that took place on Monday, August 12 with a goal to build awareness and support and to seek ways this ministry can be more intertwined with the other justice ministries.

Support for this exists in covenants and is one of the Vestry's Mutual Ministry Goals. Talked about increasing the level of participation by offering three or four "what's in it for me" strategies; identifying those who live by Creation Care and have them tell their story; show the international connection with what is happening with the Amazon women, the Diocese of Olympia's planting trees; involve the youth groups and young adults; Nicole Silvernale, Youth Ministry, is working on this too. Share practical tips with the individual Justice Ministries. Ruth reminds us that this is the "ultimate justice issue of our time."

Washington Against Nuclear Weapons Coalition

Pat Leckenby discussed the Washington Against Nuclear Weapons Coalition vision – aim to abolish all nuclear weapons globally and issued an invitation for Saint Mark’s to be a member.

There are currently 45 organizations who are members. Pat would like Saint Mark’s to become a member and identify a second person to attend WANW monthly meetings to represent the Saint Mark’s Anti-Nuclear Weapons ministry. Nineteen people already signed up to receive the monthly newsletter and call to action from the WANW Coalition.

A **MOTION** was made and passed to endorse the formation of a new ministry which would be part of Washington Against Nuclear Weapons Coalition.

University Churches Emergency Fund

Marjorie Ringness would like to find a replacement as a point of contact to this organization. UCEF provides rental assistance for zip codes around the university district; Saint Mark’s provides funds to help other Seattle zip codes. We provide vouchers to those in need and UCEF determines eligibility. Our other involvement includes a toiletry drive and attending a few meetings. **ACTION:** Brett Bowton-Meade will discuss with his wife, Amy, to see if she is interested in being the contact.

Justice Ministry Administration

- a. **Annual Reports** – Justin asked for help with the reports and putting together the budget. The budget consists of setting up the spreadsheet, inserting the numbers provided in the ministry annual reports in preparation for the Fall Budget. Dale Largent volunteered to take it over and Brett Bowton-Meade will be his back up.
- b. **Ministry Fair** – Everyone agreed we want to have a presence and a table on September 15. Justin will turn in the completed form. Brett volunteered to be at the table since he will be there. He was advised to coordinate staffing of two tables with Olivier Santos. To help parishioners get involved, we will have a survey available where interests can be identified and then passed along to the other justice ministries.
- c. **Ministry Directory Descriptions** – Justin reported that updates to the Ministry Directory are due by August 27. Justin proposed the following mission statement: *The JMCT encourages and supports the people of the Cathedral and their community allies as they answer God’s call for justice in the world. This team works in partnership with volunteer Justice Ministries to set standards of performance and provide assistance, oversight and coordination.*

A **MOTION** was made and approved to adopt the description as proposed.

- d. **September 3 meeting change of dates** – After discussion, it was decided there would be no meeting in September; our next meeting will be October 1 at 6:30pm and with the location TBD.

Morning Coffee Hour Hosting August 25th

Barbara Erickson will send out a reminder to JMCT that we are serving the hospitality refreshments for the 9 and 11am services on August 25. Three different categories of food are suggested: protein: cheese, deviled eggs, cold cuts, nuts, etc; Fresh: veggies, fruit trays; Sweets: cookies, brownies, etc. Please let Barbara know which service you are bringing refreshments for and it is suggested to bring your food item on either a plate or disposable plate.

Hunger & Homeless Advocacy - Standing Agenda Item - Plan, Goals and Updates

- a. **Narthex Bathrooms. Open Front Door Hospitality.** Ministry to welcome visitors to Saint Mark’s, to provide a rest stop for people on the street and to offer supplies to homeless people. The narthex bathrooms will be open two to three hours on weekdays from 1pm to 3 or 4pm and a

pair of volunteers (a man and woman) will be there welcome visitors. Workshops will provide training to the volunteers. Ministry will start up after September 15 – Ministry Fair.

- b. **Threshold Fund report** – David Wagner sent the following report: second quarter (April - June) Catholic Community Services awarded \$10,579 of Threshold funds to 9 households (total of 21 individuals). Since March of 2019, a total of 14 awards (30 individuals) for move-in assistance were made. Total Threshold funds awarded for the first half of 2019 equal \$17,320.92. The average assistance was \$1,237.21.

How can we as a team promote Justice? - Standing Agenda Item

Betsy Bell reflected the book *Winners Take All* by Anand Girihiradas about how progressive CEO's have been investing in projects that would change the world for the very poor, while still making a profit, a kind of Win-Win for the corporations and the disadvantaged. We talked about the failure of such business projects to heal the conditions of the most vulnerable. The assumption is that the private sector can fix the problems. The author points out that only through government regulations and programs have the very poorest people obtained a way out of poverty. Working on justice issues, the government is not mentioned. We need to look at our roles as citizens to make change. Hoping for a just place in the world for the vulnerable and we are asked to think about it and as a committee, keep reminding ourselves and others that when achieving goals around homelessness and hunger and immigration, we need to have more willingness to engage the government.

Other Business

David Wagner sent the following report about the Leffler House/Carriage House garden (I can never remember the official name) has been cleaned up. Grass (weeds) cut, planting beds cleared and turned, hanging vines trimmed, and fence mended. Kids4Peace, who now occupy the offices in Carriage House, and the Cathedral youth ministry are exploring ways to collaborate in using this space.

Next Meeting

October 1 at 6:30 pm location TBD.

Closing Prayer

Justin closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:34pm.

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