



Saint Mark's Cathedral

**JUSTICE MINISTRIES COORDINATING TEAM
MEETING MINUTES**

April 14, 2020

6:30 – 9:00 pm

Location: THE CLOUD

Present: Betsy Bell, Brett Bowton-Meade, Libby Carr, Micah Kurtz, Dale Largent, Justin Mills, Kari Nasby, Tom Sunderland, Carolyn White and Barbara Erickson.

Not Present: Emily Austin, Christopher Breunig, Karen Knudson, Julia Logan, Susan Ratner, Nancy Ross, Steve Thomason, and David Wagner.

Opening Prayer

Micah opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:38 PM. Kari Nasby, Vestry Representative, was welcomed to this committee.

Review Previous Minutes

The March meeting minutes were approved as distributed.

COVID-19 Ways to Help our Community

Justin led a discussion about ways we might assist our community during these times. This resulted in the following recommendations:

1. Hunger Offerings and Clergy Discretionary Fund at Saint Mark's, NW Harvest
2. Donations to UCEF – Saint Mark's provides \$1,250 in funding from the Clergy Discretionary Fund. Money supports Seattle zip codes (not supported by UCEF) for rent and utilities to help residents stay in their homes.
3. Casa Latina provides job opportunities for domestic workers and day laborers, we support them.
4. Community Lunch – preparing take out lunches now instead of serving hot meals. Fundraiser was cancelled and they need financial support.
5. Undocumented and DACA, check with Nancy for direction or we can support agencies who are serving them.

NEXT STEPS: Email to the various ministry leads? Sundays & Beyond article encouraging donations? Justin will check with Dean about further requests for donations. Reminder: if you are not receiving Sundays & Beyond, contact Greg Bloch, gbloch@saintmarks.org, to be added to the distribution list.

Creation Care

Carolyn provided the following information:

May 4th & May 11th (Mondays) Creation Care is sponsoring two ZOOM based forums featuring **Drawdown!** With its scientific assessment of substantive strategies which will reverse global warming. Stay tuned!!! Facilitator Scott Henson is engaging! His information and video inclusions promise to be persuasive, interactive creating a shared experience!!

Creation Care and Earth Ministry would like you to note Earth Day 2020 (50 years young!) April 22nd. Next Wednesday!

No massive march as hoped but instead a U.S. Climate Strike response (EarthDay.org) covering 72 hours, dip in periodically!

- **Wednesday, April 22nd,**
Over the 24 hours of Earth Day, the 50th anniversary of Earth Day will fill the digital landscape with global conversations, calls to action, performances, video teach-ins and more.
- **Thursday, April 23rd,** Continuing coverage, focused on Financial institutions/Divestment
- **Friday, April 24th,** Political Change, urgency
- **Sunday, April 26th,** National Cathedral, Wash. DC, Online Multi-Faith service 11: a.m. PST.

JubileeUSA - COVID-19 Letter

Betsy received a letter from JubileeUSA requesting Saint Mark's sign onto a letter to the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva, asking for debt forgiveness for the next six months for the developing and developed countries. Good news shared that the IMF cancelled the debt on Monday, April 13, 2020.

Non-partisan Voter Registration

The question was asked "How can we move this forward, given our current environment?" Suggestions that we support Elizabeth Warren's efforts to encourage voting by mail. Betsy suggested the organization Vote Forward - <https://votefwd.org/>. They provide a list of names of voters to contact, your letter encourages them to vote.

Emily also had suggestions; Justin has not received the registration forms yet; TABLED.

WANW - Listening Process Updates

The Vestry is interested in learning more, Betsy has been invited by Julia Logan, Senior Warden, to the Vestry meeting on Tuesday, April 28. Betsy reviewed the Vestry's questions with the committee and will be attending the Vestry meeting.

Hunger & Homeless Advocacy

ACTION: Carolyn will inquire about a virtual tour of the Tiny Houses Safe Harbor Interbay site rather than an onsite tour.

How can we as a team promote Justice?

We have discussed opportunities above under "Ways to help" discussion. Justin will discuss with Steve the idea of a Zoom call with the congregation to have an open discuss about homelessness.

Other Business

Faith Action Network (FAN). Tom shared an observation that the migrant and undocumented workers now have become "critical workers." Spotlights the injustice – crisis changes their status and importance. How do we keep this awareness and others alive after the pandemic is over?

Closing Prayer

Libby gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on May 5, 2020 at 6:30pm and will be via Zoom.

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