



## Saint Mark's Cathedral

### JUSTICE MINISTRIES COORDINATING TEAM

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

Leffler Living Room

**Present:** Emily Austin, Betsy Bell, Brett Bowton-Meade, Libby Carr, Justin Mills, Tom Sunderland, Carolyn White and Barbara Erickson.

**Not present:** Christopher Breunig, Micah Kurtz, Karen Knudson, Dale Largent, Julia Logan, Susan Ratner, Steve Thomason, Nancy Ross, and David Wagner.

#### **Opening Prayer** –

Libby opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:35PM.

#### **Review Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the February 4, 2020 meeting were approved as distributed.

#### **JMCT Service Snacks - March 29th**

We are scheduled to bring light refreshments for the hospitality table after the 9 and 11am services on March 29. A list of who will bring items for each service had been started. Justin will send out a reminder.

#### **Men's Retreat**

Steve is coordinating the first retreat for men modeled after the successful Women's Retreat. The date is June 5 – 7. Justin may be attending.

#### **Creation Care Updates:**

The Creation Care Ministry is providing prayer cards each Sunday; will feature forums on March 22, April 29 with Scott Henson and Drawdown; the Creation Care meeting on Monday, March 9 at 6:00pm will feature Scott Henson as their guest speaker – all are welcome to attend.

How should each ministry begin to think about how climate change impacts them/programming? Liaison could be established between JMCT and Creation Care.

Creation Care priorities:

1. Refrigerants
2. Wind turbines
3. Food waste (and packaging waste)
4. Eating plant rich diet
5. Tropical forest

#### **Non-partisan Voter Registration**

Emily Austin has volunteered to assist with this project and reported that the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is advocating Vote Faithfully. Conference calls are held on Zoom with 15 of the 24 cathedrals participating. Information is also available at the Rock the Vote website:

<https://www.rockthevote.org/>.

Justin has contact information for six volunteers interested in helping, Emily will coordinate with them. Thoughts generated on where our focus would be includes:

- Table at Compline for Voter Registration. **ACTION:** need to check with Compline worshippers and Steve. Nancy will follow up.
- Clergy visits at senior living facilities focusing on the staff
- One or two Sundays have tables at Saint Mark's for voter registration and to help those who may have fallen off the rolls. Betsy is participating with VoteForward – <https://votefwd.org/>.
- Purchase "I Voted Faithfully" stickers to give out. **ACTION:** Justin approved spending up to \$150 on stickers. Emily will order them.
- Festivals happening in the October timeframe could be potential sites.
- Pridefest – **ACTION:** Nancy will check with Earl and Robert.
- U.S. Election Assistance Commission – established by the Help America Vote Act of 2002. It is an independent bipartisan commission that helps Americans vote. Materials 50 different languages. Justin signed up.

#### **Next Steps – Emily**

- 1) Doodle poll to those who expressed interest in being on the committee to find a date to meet (6 people + JMCT)
- 2) Plan events at that time.
- 3) Calendar dates, forum and Sundays & Beyond and beginning March 6 for six weeks.

#### **WANW** (Washington Against Nuclear Weapons)

Betsy Bell drafted a Listening Process proposal to present to the Saint Mark's Executive Committee that requests a Listening Process be established with the goal of Saint Mark's Cathedral becoming a member of the WANW coalition. There were questions about how to proceed and Nancy Ross volunteered to do research. Betsy will send the proposal for an email vote and then it will go to the Executive Committee (Dean and the wardens) and then it will be sent to the Vestry.

#### **Hunger & Homeless Advocacy - Standing Agenda Item**

The discussion was centered around removing this as a standing agenda item as there is no current leadership. The thought was to add it back to the agenda as needed.

As the topic was discussed, it seemed we did have topics to share, and it was decided to leave on the agenda, and we can add status as needed.

- Brett provided a recap of the recent UCEF (United Churches Emergency Fund) forum and reported that it went well. UCEF works well as they know what they can do best, and they do that one thing. Similarly, the Threshold Fund is our thing and we work with experts to be successful in that area.
- Emily talked about the April 1 foot washing that will take place at CenturyLink Field, although volunteers maybe working with distributing items versus the actual foot washing.
- Dale Largent had sent a message regarding Community Lunch's Spring Fundraiser being held on March 21. It was suggested that this be sent to the entire JMCT committees.

- St. Martin de Porres (Saint Brigid's Banquet) is dealing with succession issues as Brenda Schoolfield has moved away, and there is no one to replace her. Brenda is still coordinating through email. Brett will follow-up with Cristi.
- David Wagner has background about Tiny Houses. Carolyn suggested a field trip to Interbay Safe Harbor Village. Brett will talk with David prior to making arrangements to visit the Village.

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

Continue discussion of engagement with community outside/away from Saint Mark's? This topic was also discussed. And all felt that it is incorporated with the topics above.

**Other business**

Libby Carr asked how one joins this committee. As she expressed interest and is willing attend meetings, she was enthusiastically welcomed as a member of the committee.

**Closing prayer**

Justin gave the closing prayer and the meeting ended at 8:20pm.

**Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 14** at 6:30 pm in Leffler House. Carolyn will take the meeting minutes and will update the reservation on the Cathedral calendar.

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