



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

Saint Mark's Cathedral

**JUSTICE MINISTRIES COORDINATING TEAM
MEETING MINUTES**

February 4, 2019

6:30 – 9:30 pm

Leffler Living Room

Present: Emily Austin, Betsy Bell, Christopher Breunig, Libby Carr, Dale Largent, Nancy Ross, Carolyn White and Barbara Erickson.

Not present: Brett Bowton-Meade, Micah Kurtz, Karen Knudson, Julia Logan, Justin Mills, Susan Ratner, Tom Sunderland, Steve Thomason, and David Wagner.

Guests: Matt Eldridge, Interim Executive Director, and John Berry, Vice President, Oikocredit US.

Opening Prayer

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

OikoCredit - Update

Matt Eldridge, Interim Executive Director, and John Berry, Vice-President, reviewed the organization's reach; it has approximately \$1.3 billion Euros distributed through cooperatives and focuses on sustainable agriculture, microinclusion and renewable energy. Individuals, including Rick Hodsdon, David Mesenbring and Judy Andrews have been active in promoting its work and parishioners have invested in its work. Currently its work in the US is being restructured.

In contrast to its former impact investing model which distributed money through its partner cooperatives, Oikocredit now assumes the debt which mitigates the risk so the partners will not suffer – the focus was on empowerment of women. An example was provided: coffee – fluctuation in pricing not dependent on the individual, but on external circumstances. Oikocredit would provide donations to help the farmer not experience hardships due to the decrease in coffee bean pricing.

Oikocredit would like to reconnect with Saint Mark's. General feeling from this committee is that Jubilee and microfinance fit well together, but more discussion of how its work fits with our Mission Statement is required.

Review Previous Minutes

MOTION was made to accept the January minutes as written. Christopher Breunig/Dale Largent/Carried.

JMCT Hosts Sunday March 29

Discussion had regarding bringing snacks for the Hospitality Table. A sign-up sheet was routed to identify our individual contributions.

Non-partisan Voter Registration

Voter Registration forms have been ordered by Justin. Interested parishioners are being sought to determine possible outreach including what other Episcopal churches, the League of Women Voters are suggesting, as well as Interfaith Power and Light (WAIPPL) which may offer workshops, trainings and advocacy opportunities.

Hunger & Homeless Advocacy

We discussed various resources available including the United Way and its Community Resource Exchange which is an annual one day event, this year on April 1st, 9 to 2 p.m. at Century Link Field Event Center, East Hall, and provides services, such as personal care, medical, lunch, housing resources, needed by a homeless person. Emily will pursue a possible sock drive for which colorful women's socks would be appreciated. Enlightening quote from their website: "I'm not a homeless woman. I'm a woman who happens to be experiencing homelessness right now." – 2019 Community Resource Exchange guest.

How can we as a team promote Justice?

Carolyn showed a four-minute video – [Will Grant's Four Levels of Action video](#) – clarifying impact by an individual, enlisting of family or friends, wider community focus (i.e., a school) and finally working for policy change in laws. Through their experience volunteering for some community feeding programs, Chris and Dale spoke very pointedly of need for individuals to get out and volunteer in the community.

Upcoming events scheduled by Creation Care include:

March 22 and April 19 10:00 Sunday forums

April 22 – 50th Anniversary of Earth Day (Stay tuned for a community march)

May 9 – Cathedral Day: Creation Care theme

May 17 – Rogation Sunday

Other Business

1. Betsy: Jubilee table collected a couple dozen signatures to thank the president for the partial debt cancellation for Somalia.
2. Nancy: Trip to the border report – four parishioners and Nancy went to the border to see what was happening and how we might help. Current policy is for all immigrants to remain in Mexico until their hearing date, but fewer than 1% get a hearing. Conditions have not changed, and children are still separated. Ways by which we can support these people will be presented during the group's Forum on February 9th.

Closing Prayer

Barbara gave the closing prayer and the meeting was at 8:21pm.

Next meeting

March 3 at 6:30pm 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

DRAFT