



Saint Mark's Cathedral

JUSTICE MINISTRIES COORDINATING TEAM

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 7th, 2020
Leffler Living Room

Present: Betsy Bell, Christopher Breunig, Dale Largent, Justin Mills, Carolyn White and Barbara Erickson.

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

Guest: Libby Carr: Steve Thomason recommended she reacquaint herself with the Justice Ministry by attending the JMCT Meetings.

Opening Prayer –

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

Minutes

MOTION to approve the October meeting minutes as published was made by Carolyn White/Christopher Breunig/Carried.

MOTION to approve the November meeting minutes as distributed was made by Christopher Breunig/Justin Mills/Carried.

MOTION to approve the December meeting minutes was made by Betsy Bell/Christopher Breunig/Carried.

Uyghur Awareness Event

Christopher summarized the event held in Bloedel Hall and coordinated through the help of Brett Bowton-Meade and Mary Seagall. A shared meal was provided for about 110 people by the Uyghur community and members of Saint Mark's. Presentations, a young dancer in costume, and photographs were a part of the evening.

Next steps could include donations to the Uyghur Human Rights Center: <https://uhrp.org/>; having future Awareness Events; listen to Michael Barbaro's The Daily podcast regarding the internment camps. **ASIDE:** The attendance was about 110 people and may be attributed to Brett's advertising the event in the Stranger.

Non-partisan Voter Registration and Action

- a. Justin led the conversation on what can we do to encourage getting out to vote and Libby suggested we check out Michelle Obama's "When We All Vote" video. When We All Vote is a "non-profit, nonpartisan organization that is on a mission to increase participation in every election and close the race and age voting gap by changing the culture around voting, harnessing grassroots energy, and through strategic partnerships to reach every American." Visit: <https://www.whenweallvote.org/>. Discussion had about getting connected, having speakers and finding someone who will take this on as a project.

- b. Libby also informed us about Emerge Washington – a non-profit that offers a “boot camp” on how to be a candidate to democratic, progressive women who are interested in running for public office. The following **ACTION** items are related to widening the appeal to people to vote.

ACTION1: Betsy will talk with Nicole Silvernale to see about getting the youth involved; **ACTION2 & 3:** Carolyn will contact the League of Women Voters and will put an ad in Sundays & Beyond after the Annual Meeting with Justin as the point of contact. **ACTION4:** Justin has ordered registration forms in English, Spanish and Vietnamese to distribute in various places. Front Door Ministry may be a place to have some forms available. other progress? Justin: 100 voter ed forms in English and Spanish Vietnamese. **ACTION5:** This topic will remain on the agenda.

Hunger & Homeless Advocacy - Standing Agenda Item

Hunger Offering - Is there something that could be coordinated with them for supplies for the UCEF snack packs. No status as of this meeting. Although Noel House continues to meet two times a week, Sunday and Monday nights to provide nighttime shelter for about 20 women.

Creation Care – Quick Description and Update - Standing Agenda Item

Carolyn handed out the Creation Care Ministry description that will be in the Ministry Directory. She also provided the following nuggets:

- 51% of emissions come from the animals we raise for food.
 - Book to read: Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming by Paul Hawken. The #1 thing we can do to reverse global warming is to reduce the use of refrigerants: alternative is the energy smart refrigerator; the #2 thing is the use of wind power.
 - Earth Day is April 22 and it is celebrating its 50th anniversary.
 - Annual Dinner & Fundraiser on March 7, 2020.
 - Annual Dinner: WPSR. Betsy supplied this description of relationship between WPSR and the Washington Against Nuclear Weapons (WANW). WPSR is the umbrella organization and they are having the dinner March 7th. WANW is their coalition of peace activist groups across the state who unite in their lobbying efforts to abolish nuclear weapons (Veterans for Peace, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Hiroshima to Hope, etc.) Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility is hosting Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali as keynote speaker, known for his work with “environmental justice, public health, resource equity and political empowerment to uplift our most vulnerable communities.”
- ACTION:** Betsy will send out information.

How can we as a team promote Justice?

What does that look like? We identified ways we are doing this – Voter Registration & Action project, Brett traveling off campus to do work; St. Luke’s Edible Hope Kitchen and Community Lunch. These are not the only ways, if you have a story to share, let Justin know.

Other business

Carolyn began a conversation about the need to recruit new members for this ministry. Betsy pointed out there were limitations as to how long one should serve on this committee that probably should be revisited.

Closing Prayer

Christopher gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm

Next Meeting

February 4th, 6:30 pm in Leffler House. Judy Andrews will join us to talk about Oikiocredit.

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