



Saint Mark's Cathedral

JUSTICE MINISTRIES COORDINATING TEAM MEETING MINUTES

June 2, 2020

6:30 – 9:00pm

Location: THE CLOUD

Present: Emily Austin, Betsy Bell, Brett Bowton-Meade, Christopher Breunig, Libby Carr, Dale Largent, Justin Mills, Nancy Ross, Tom Sunderland, Carolyn White, and Barbara Erickson.

Not Present: Karen Knudson, Micah Kurtz, Julia Logan, Kari Nasby, Susan Ratner, Steve Thomason, and David Wagner.

Guest: Melody Smith

Opening Prayer

Justin opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:37 PM and introduced our guest, Melody Smith who is interested in helping. Melody attends Saint Mark's and is completing her Masters in Museology – museum studies.

Review Previous Minutes

The minutes of the May 5 meeting were approved as published.

Creation Care - Update

Carolyn reported that their next step is to turn the possible activities that were brainstormed last month (first four objectives under the vision statement) into action items. Sharing the links to Drawdown – <http://meetu.ps/e/J3CIL/JmB9G/a> and Dr. Foley, who provides more specifics on the causes of the carbon in the atmosphere, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJaCMbGgmEU>. Noted that we have gone 35 years with temperatures above the 20th century average. Recommends the use of the Episcopal calculator for calculating our carbon emissions.

JubileeUSA – Update

Betsy reported Dean Steve Thomason signed the letter in support of debt cancellation.

WANW – Listening Process Update

The Cathedral will issue the press release supporting the abolition of nuclear weapons closer to the Hiroshima to Hope event on August 6. The press release will be sent diocese-wide and to local newspapers.

Tiny House

Carolyn completed research on a live or virtual walkthrough of the Tiny Houses Safe Harbor Interbay, but after a discussion about our objectives/outcome for the visit, it was agreed to table this for now.

Alternate possibilities and past efforts were discussed, and our work is to find the interest within the congregation toward this work. The lingering question remains – Is there enough energy in the congregation to work on this issue?

ASIDE: How do we engage the congregation in this or any work during this pandemic?

ACTION: Emily will invite Jeffery Blake, Bishop's commissioner on homeless, to a future meeting.

ACTION: Carolyn will create a list of questions, reviewed with the JMCT and shared with the Ministry leaders, asking what is the current state within your ministry and what might you be willing to address given the situation with COVID-19 and the "New World" we will be living in in the future.

Racial Inequity Response

- a) Mostly it is about listening, learning, and showing up. In general, when we are in communication with people of color, it is best to say as little as possible, and certainly to watch how we seem compelled to express our opinions on any topics. If we don't make room in conversations, then we won't hear what is important to them.
- b) Prayer vigil yesterday held outside the First AME church at 1:00. Pastor Anderson was also on the Mayor's news briefing Sunday. It is hard to stay on top of community events like this but to show up in support when we can is an important stand.
- c) Subscribe to the online newspaper <https://seattlemedium.com/>. The Op-Ed section is interesting. We would get some perspective that other news media doesn't focus on in the same way.
- d) Consider reading Robin DiAngelo's book, "White Fragility, Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism". There is more info at <https://robindiangelo.com/publications/>. She is a professor of sociology at the UW and has drawn this work from years of experience doing sensitivity workshops, among other things.
- e) Here is a directory of local black-owned businesses: <https://ranktribe.com/seattle>. I think the focus in the short-term would-be restaurants.
- f) The Stranger has more restaurants and events that often include donation of proceeds to community organizing groups: <https://www.thestranger.com/things-to-do/2020/06/01/43812977/black-lives-matter-a-guide-to-resistance-eventsblack-owned-restaurants-and-other-ways-to-stand-against-racism-in-seattle>
- g) The Urban League is handing out 100 emergency food packages every Monday, among other great community support activity that continues even through the pandemic. I don't know what we could do to be hands on – but we can read through all the stuff they are doing and see if something calls out. Their website is <https://urbanleague.org/>. They do a lot of collaborating with government and other agencies.
- h) Finally, something else that is person-of-color related: If you need to hire a worker to help in the yard or housecleaning, or for other projects, consider inquiring at <https://casa-latina.org/>.

ASIDE: Best places to learn about how and where to support activities is through the Faith Action Network (FAN) and Church Council of Greater Seattle (CCGS).

2020 CENSUS

Tom talked about the pandemic's effect on the 2020 Census and how we might seek ideas or if we can help in any way.

ASIDE: Tom reported: "Unfortunately, the in-person interviews, which are meant to account for those in marginalized communities, have been severely curtailed as a result of coronavirus. FAN is hopeful that as restrictions ease, we will be able to make up the coverage, but as of right now

there is reason for concern. FAN's information on the census can be found at:
<https://fanwa.org/advocacy/advocacy-toolkit/census-2020/>.”

How Can We as a Team Promote Justice?

Carolyn asked the question, “What is justice going to look like in the post-pandemic ‘New World’ and what does that mean for Saint Mark’s Cathedral – and then for JMCT?”

Members signed up to investigate ways we might be able to help within the categories of ministries we currently support.

ACTION: Justin will provide information in Google Docs, everyone is invited to update with ideas.

1. Racial inequity – Melody
2. Homelessness + affordable housing & Creation Care – Christopher
3. Environmental justice – Carolyn and Libby
4. Economic justice – Tom and Betsy
5. Immigration rights – Nancy

Closing Prayer

Brett gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm.

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 4, 2020 at 6:30pm 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