

Justice Ministries Coordinating Team Meeting

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Leffler House

Members Present: Betsy Bell, Tom Campbell, Rick Hodsdon, Karen Knudson, Jacquelyn Miller, Justin Mills, Tom Sunderland, Steve Thomason, Carolyn White

Members Absent: Chris Breunig, Marjorie Ringness, David Wagner, Joe Wright

Steve opened with prayer at 7:03 p.m.

Introductions

We met our two new members of the JMCT. They are Tom Sunderland, who has been active with Faith Action Network, and Justin Mills, who took on the role of coordinating team chair beginning July 1, 2017. Louise Gringel-Caswell has rotated off the JMCT. We expressed great appreciation for her service over the past several years.

Summer Celebration Wrap-Up

The general sense was that the event was very successful. Betsy made the suggestion to incorporate a program into next year's event in order to introduce the different service groups and celebrate individuals who have served in some special way. This idea was well received and will be implemented in the future.

Plymouth Congregational Church Liaison Update

This congregation has expressed an interest in connecting with St. Mark's specifically with our justice activities. Justin, Reverend Canon Jennifer Daugherty, and Marjorie Ringness met with Plymouth board member, Bill Zook, on August 17th. The discussion with Bill focused on St. Mark's recent Covenant process and on possibly having some of Plymouth members volunteer with some of our justice ministries. The JMCT will look for future opportunities to work with Plymouth in the following months.

Karen suggested that we invite members from Plymouth to attend our Ministry Fair on September 10th and the Weaving Our Strengths Conference on September 30th.

Weaving Our Strengths Conference

Steve suggested that we send out an invitation to the leaders of the St. Mark's justice ministries to forward to their members in order to stir up additional interest in this event. Justin will do that this week.

Steve also noted that this event might help members of the congregation refocus some energy on the issue of homelessness and to help determine what those efforts might look like. The group felt that this issue deserves further discussion so Justin is going to add this topic to our next month's agenda.

St. Mark's Greenbelt Awareness

We discussed how parish members might make the greenbelt a more attractive venue. Karen suggested that we think about organizing Sunday afternoon walks as one way to have a continual presence in the area.

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Since we didn't have time to discuss this topic in depth, it will be added to next month's agenda and Tom S. will lead that discussion.

2017 Eco Challenge

The Northwest Earth Institute is sponsoring a 2017 Eco Challenge and Carolyn noted that since St. Mark's is a Green Cathedral, it seems that participation in this event would be a good way for our congregation to serve as a model for the community. Steve volunteered to find someone to lead the parish's involvement.

Justice Ministry Initiative Process

We had charged Rick and Chris with reviewing our current process for creating new ministries and for the reporting and budgeting process for ongoing ministries at an earlier meeting. As a first-step in this process, Rick presented their newly-revised annual report form and we offered feedback on how to improve it. Rick will incorporate our suggestions for improvement and Justine will distribute to justice ministry leaders.

We decided that in addition to having the justice ministries fill out the annual report, we will invite them to have representatives attend one of our monthly JMCT meetings for a longer conversation about the work that they are doing.

Budgeting Timeline

We will need the annual reports by October 23rd so that we can review them at our November meeting.

Faith Action Network (FAN)

Tom S. has volunteered to be the liaison between St. Mark's justice groups and FAN, which is a multi-faith advocacy group that focuses on legislation at the state-wide level. The specifics of his role have not been laid out completely in order for him to have some flexibility in determining the direction of his activities.

Other Business

Jim Wallace, head of Sojourners, will be speaking at McCaw Hall on September 16th at 7:00. Tickets are available from Brown Paper Tickets.

Service Corps members will be arriving this week and Carolyn suggested that we do something special for them. We will discuss what to do at the next meeting.

Rick offered a closing prayer at 8:39.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Our next meeting will be held on October 3, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in Leffler Living Room.

Minutes submitted by Jacquelyn Miller