

## Justice Ministries Partners' Meeting

Sunday, September 25, 2016

Cathedral House 210

Those present:

Kae Eaton	Mental Health Chaplaincy
Louise Gringel-Caswell	JMCT, United Churches Emergency Fund (UCEF)
Karen Knudson	JMCT, Vestry
Jacquelyn Miller	JMCT, Habitat for Humanity
Norva Osborn	Noel House
Michael Perera	Hunger Offering
Marjorie Ringness	JCMT
Ellen Taft	Baby Bank
Carolyn White	JMCT, Noel House, Sustainability

The meeting began with a light lunch at 12:30 p.m.

Carolyn opened with prayer at 12:55 p.m.

Justice Ministry partners made the following reports:

### **Noel House**

Norva Osborn reported that composting has been an issue with the Noel House attendees, but that the volunteers have worked out some processes to ensure that composting becomes more a part of their meal regimen.

She also noted that the ministry needs a few new volunteers, especially for mornings, and that she got some leads at the Ministries Fair. Ellen Taft volunteered to contact the editor at the *Capitol Hill Times* newspaper to solicit their help with recruiting volunteers.

Karen Knudson remarked that she has communicated with several young people who are looking for one-off volunteer activities and asked if they might be recruited for Noel House work. Norva agreed that there are some opportunities for this type of volunteer efforts and that she would include a message on their website blurb to open up training opportunities for them.

Carolyn White communicated that the members of the Soup Committee have made 60-70 quarts of soup for the ministry this month. The soup is frozen and then used as needed. The ministry also receives food from Food Lifeline.

### **United Churches Emergency Fund (UCEF)**

Louise Gringel-Caswell reported on UCEF's last two drives for donations and toiletry items from St. Mark's parishioners, which were very successful. Also, she noted that UCEF is seeking three

board members and hopes to find members from the corporate world who might be able to bring additional donor funds into the organization. The organization has increased the amount that they give from \$100 to \$125 to those who are struggling with utility bills, rent, etc.

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Jacquelyn Miller reported that the Habitat ministry has one more day of work left to finish up the project of remodeling Leffler House for the Seattle Service Corp members. Many, many hours were spent renovating Leffler House for this group this spring and summer.

She also mentioned that this ministry will likely do some remodeling work next year associated with the installation of an elevator in the Cathedral, particularly in terms of creating new passageways for those exiting the elevator.

### **Communication Update**

Karen Knudson asked that all justice ministry leaders revise the description of his/her ministry in the Ministry Directory as soon as possible. She also emphasized the need to mention whether volunteers are needed.

Karen plans to continue having ministries inform the congregation of their work between Sunday services and will likely have two or three ministries share a table in the future in the hopes of creating synergy between different ministries.

She also reported on the justice ministry survey from 2015 in terms of what types of ministries people hoped to see at St. Mark's or as external partnering opportunities and advocated for better integrating new volunteers into future ministries.

### **Hunger Offering**

Michael Perera has taken over the leadership of this ministry from Sarah Beer and expressed great appreciation to Sarah for leaving the ministry in such good shape. Michael is currently in the process of conversing with representatives from the six groups that the ministry liaises to learn how they function and how St. Mark's can better work with them. He is also reviewing current processes for ways to improve some of the bureaucratic activities. In addition, with regard to future planning, Michael is interested in providing more special meals for holiday events like Thanksgiving and Christmas and is brainstorming with others to develop a more concrete plan to take to Dean Thomason.

### **Sustainability**

Carolyn White noted that this group hosted the August 25<sup>th</sup> totem pole journey with the Lummi tribe, an event co-sponsored with Earth Ministry, Sitaline Institute, and Sierra Club. The event had approximately 400 attendees and was emceed by Dean Steve Thomason.

This ministry is sponsoring a watershed series as be part of the Wednesday evening commons in October. One speaker of Cree and Cherokee descent will talk about her cultures' traditions

using water. Another speaker will be the executive director of Cascade Water Alliance who is also a state climatologist.

The members of this ministry are also involved in planning to make St. Mark's a zero energy building.

### **Baby Bank of Seattle**

Ellen Taft reported that the Baby Bank of Seattle sponsored a fundraiser in May. Also, the ministry is still looking for space for the ministry.

In addition, given her connections with other organizations, she offered to help other ministries with publicity for their groups, particularly with regard to recruiting volunteers.

### **Mental Health Chaplaincy (MHC)**

Kae Eaton informed us this ministry recently held a training at St. Paul's Episcopal Church for approximately thirty-five individuals who are interested in working with this constituency and that they have several upcoming trainings in the works. Details can be located on the ministry's website.

### **Justice Ministries Annual Reporting/Budgeting Process**

Marjorie Ringness informed us that we would soon learn the deadline for submitting our annual reports and budget requests for 2017.

She also encouraged people to participate in the three-to-five year strategic planning revisioning process that is outlined on the St. Mark's website and is being overseen by Lynne Markova, Senior Warden.

### **Partners Meeting**

The next Partners Meeting will be held sometime in January. The specific date will be announced soon.

Karen Knudson offered a closing prayer at 1:58 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jacquelyn Miller