

Justice Ministry Minutes -- November 7, 2017

Members Present: Rick Hodsdon, Karen Knudson, Justin Mills, Marjorie Ringness, Steve Thomason, David Wagner, Carolyn White, Joe Wright

Members Absent: Betsy Bell, Chris Breunig, Tom Campbell, Jacquelyn Miller, Tom Sunderland

Guests: Lynn Markova, Norva Osborn

Justin opened the meeting with prayer.

Initial discussion centered around proposed Budget about which Marjorie provided background of and relevant information as we reviewed.

Revenue Notes

Jubilee - \$450 estimated revenue would come from pledge check-off (opt-out) on pledge forms. Other designated revenue is dependent on donors' gifts.

A matching grant from Microsoft of \$6000 no longer exists as donor has moved.

Dean Thomason's Discretionary Budget transfers \$1000 to JMCT Budget designated for United Churches Emergency Fund.

Proposed Revenue budget for 2018 is \$28,550. 2017 budget was \$32,065.

Expense Notes

Noel House –increase from \$6000 to \$7800 because NH is requesting that SMC shelter increase its evening count by 10 totaling 40 women.

St Bridget's Banquet –reduced due to leadership change; fewer volunteers prepare fewer meals.

Habitat – Projects on SMC campus ending and at present no local Habitat projects; \$500 requested for volunteers' meals for final projects.

MidEast Focus - \$2700 for educational activities.

Justice Retreat - \$1000 for desired one day retreat; if unspent, balance directed toward new initiatives.

Mosque Visit group – \$300 minimal "what if budget" to cover possible cost to rent "neutral" space for meetings.

Racial Reconciliation – \$1500 for honoraria for possible guest speakers.

FAN--- No increase. SMC does not subsidize "table" at FAN dinner; attendees pay.

Eco-Justice/Sustainability – In hiatus. No request.

Greenbelt –Ministry partners with local nonprofit/civic groups who support with plants, major restoration projects; it was noted that Forest Stewards, Robert Hayden and Joe Roza have expressed their frustration over lack of engagement by SMC parishioners either by helping or venturing into. Possible explanation attributed to safety issues from ongoing homeless "squatters" and much drug use. Junior Warden Cara Peterson is exploring possible way to engage the Greenbelt 'campers' with parish and address safety concerns.

MidEast / Kids 4 Peace - \$300 budget 2018 might support Service Corps involvement.

Philippines Carbon Offset – \$1200 budget - \$100/mo toward arborist salary. Admittedly the political climate in Mindanao has been dangerous but Steve stressed that tree planting continues to be strong partnership which helps offset our church carbon use and provide jobs there. At Diocesan level, Carbon Offset Committee under Canon Lance & Nancy McConnell continue communication with the EDSP.

Partnering Opportunities – discussion centered over which groups warrant continued support.

Contributions to **Church Council, Earth Ministry, Philippines Carbon Offset, Salish Sea First Nations, United Churches Emergency Fund (UCEF), Northwest Community Bail Fund** were approved for a total of \$7500.

Dean Steve added that if the \$1000 amount in support of UCEF was insufficient, he would direct additional funding to the organization.

Karen raised the question of what constitutes a Justice Ministry because the 2017 Fall *Directory list of Ministries* is not consistent with budget allocations. Marjorie responded that the budget had been reworked last year to reflect ministries making a request. There was consensus that the Directory be reviewed and updated and made consistent with Justin's list of leader's contact information prior to January 2018 printing.

A question arose about why Health Advocacy Ministry is listed under Justice instead of Pastoral. Steve explained that the reason for having such a Directory is not just to inform about our structure but to stimulate interest and facilitate participation by parishioners (and others).

Salish Sea 1st Nations support – Although 2017 check was directed toward the Lummi Nation for their effective Totem Pole Journey dramatizing resistance to further removal of fossil fuels from the earth, Steve recommended we leave the category more generic because we might want to support other tribes' advocacy actions.

Proposed expense budget for 2018 is \$28,550; 2017 was \$32,065. However, because we lost MSFT \$6000 contribution, we increased our request to vestry from \$21,415 in 2017 to **\$24,600 for 2018.**

Motion proposed by Rick Hodsdon 2nd Karen Knudson– recommend budget to Vestry

Discussion – Although budget might suggest less Justice work in 2018 than previously, if one views the actual justice work being carried out at SMC, the reports and ongoing projects show a much more expansive program. Steve stated that in 2017 we are spending more time and money than in years prior to his arrival, partly as the congregational response to our Baptismal Covenant has stimulated new initiatives—several operate outside of JMCT. For example, Sanctuary's work depends on money initially donated for Syrian refugees' arrival but was not used when family was not allowed to immigrate. The money was redirected toward Sanctuary costs. Steve also affirmed that some ministries have successfully concluded in an open and respectful way. Karen noted that coordination between volunteer groups who prepare food (NH, SBB & Sanctuary) needs strengthening.

Rick remarked that the reason for redoing our annual report format was to facilitate how we communicate with proposed new initiatives. Steve and others suggest this might be a retreat topic.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Justin reviewed the question of whether UCEF vouchers should be restricted to city.

It seemed that word had spread about vouchers and people had traveled to SMC from outside city limits; the UCEF staff had asked for our agreement that vouchers would be distributed to people living within Seattle zip codes. Steve suggests we leave it to UCEF's established limits. Justin confirmed that he/Marjorie had communicated to UCEF that we agreed with their parameters. Louise Gringel-Caswell continues to be liaison with UCEF.

Lowell Elementary Homeless Initiative:

Steve and Marjorie and other staff/parishioners attended a meeting at Lowell Elementary School last week at which the school's difficulties and its needs for assistance were summarized. School has 400 students out of which 100 are homeless. Nick Hodges, PTO co-president articulately outlined the daily concerns which

include traumatized students resulting from being homeless, ESL needs, staff turnovers. School needs volunteers in many areas;

- Recess and bus monitors
- Office help
- Classroom help/monitors
- Reading tutors
- PTA help (fundraising events, etc.)
- Advocating with state officials for more funding
- Care packages/toys for the holidays
- Family passes to area attractions (Seattle Center, Zoo, Science Center, etc.) This helps by giving homeless families someplace to go during the day when shelters require them to leave the premises.

Steve is proposing 3 approaches:

A) Publicise the need and ways to respond to the need.

B) Malcolm McLaurin has taken the lead for a Christmas Drive re family needs (#8 on the list) – coordinate with counsellor at school. SMC has done this previously.

C) JMCT take on a more coordinated partnership ministry addressing the homelessness and hunger experienced by students at this school. Steve asked if we would like to spearhead this or not. Identifying leadership for a possible ministry would be necessary, such as addressing food insecurity. Many children live in shelters. This is the most resource-intensive option but provides the more partnership possibilities.

Motion by Rick (as amended) Seconded by Carolyn - That JMCT should look for leadership for an introductory initiative to assist Lowell School.

Possible contacts include Cheri Bradshaw, Barb Erickson, Christi Chapman and Malcolm McLauren

To further the appeal, JMCT will prepare an appeal for S&B which Marjorie and Carolyn will draft.

Motion Carried.

Homeless Advocacy:

David had put out request for leadership. 2 interested responses – Barbara Zito and a young man who attended SMC, Hallo Butieri. David will interview.

Carolyn summarized the status of Tent City 5 which needs to move this month. They will have 30 Tiny Houses (TH's). David commented that TH's have proven to be a good stepping stone to permanent housing, though there has been some recent controversy. Residents who move on to more permanent housing result partly from case management and wraparound services. At TC5 the management of Tiny Houses would be folded into the TC5 organization. Only 3% of residents in Tent Cities say they prefer tent life to moving into permanent housing.

Carolyn mentioned Samaritan (formerly GIVESAFE) which is a program that works through an app to connect homeless individuals with donors.

HOMES Proposal: David will report offline

Spotlight – Noel House: Norva Osborn reported that in March 2018 SMC will reach 20th year supporting Noel House. Currently there are 50-55 volunteers: morning & evening, soup makers, shoppers. Each gets something different out of it. Norva shared heartwarming stories from volunteers.

Noel House is busy during Christmas season:

- sell Christmas Cards @ \$10 and money goes directly to downtown shelter.
- Collect donations for Christmas bags for their women: looking for Ziplock bags, laundry pellets, socks, etc and gift cards etc.

Norva cited that the group is facing a challenge by being asked to shelter 10 more women nightly with increased costs on our part, and pressure on volunteers. Catholic Community Social Services is the umbrella org. over Noel House programs, which feeds in to 5 emergency shelters. Because the city's evolving policy is to move people into more permanent housing, increased numbers housed at SMC will strengthen agency's request for continued funding. Downtown Catholic Community Services hopes to assign a case worker for our women –would be ideal.

Reason for asking for more money: requested \$6500 for this year and are running close to that for consumables. With 10 more women, need might increase to \$140/week. Accounting is reconciled so that Norva can track expenses quarterly. Marjorie noted that 2-3 years ago Noel house got more donations from parishioners from a legacy gift, but Norva does not include possible gifts in her budget. When asked, Norva admitted that she has been a volunteer for 20 years and in 2004 she assumed the leadership role. Another challenge might arise when/if she decides to move away from this responsibility. Carolyn asked about possible plans for a more permanent space in basement of St Nicholas Bldg. That would be a huge change but potentially doable because plumbing exists for showers and rest rooms. Karen said that Vestry's Strategic Plan for 2030 includes expanding our shelter into St Nick bldg.

One of purposes of inviting ministry leaders to attend a meeting was to learn how we might assist them. Norva said that Noel House would appreciate help in getting word out to other parishes for need for volunteers. **Across the Diocese** could be one avenue, plus contacts to clergy. This supports Bishop Greg's expectation that parishes be more collaborative. Also, we could reach out to other church denominations in our neighborhood - Plymouth, Pilgrim? Because several cooking teams exist, Re Knack might be a lead in helping collaboration among groups. Norva said filling out the Report form would have been easier if she could have saved versions on the form. Cut and pasting from Word did not work terribly well.

I-940 De-Escalation Legislation – Sponsoring Min for Listening: Justin

Sr Warden Lynn Markova asked JMCT if we want to reach out to ministries to do the signature-gathering? What is needed is personnel who will be responsible for carrying out this work and see it through the Listening Process (LP). In order to get SMC's endorsement there has to be strong congregational support. The LP has been worked over because there was too onerous one before now (on Gun Control).

Seattle Service Corps –David reported that he had a conversation with Malcolm about having SSC members at some future time possibly staff JMCT. His concern, shared by others including the Dean, is that we are not sure what our role is, what our partners need, and they aren't sure what we can do for them. One example of a service we might provide: Helping prepare job descriptions for volunteers, so they can recruit more effectively. That's a big task for a once a month member, but a staff person might undertake this successfully. Also, Malcolm is very eager to talk to JMCT about service corps after the holidays.

Other business

- Marjorie mentioned there will be a UCEF event - "Donor Dessert" - Nov 29 at University Lutheran Church prior to a free Rain City Symphony concert. Attendees make donations to UCEF.
- Justin – one agenda item for Dec would be key take-aways from reading annual reports
- Carolyn invited JMCT members to help offer a soup supper to Service Corps at Leffler next Monday evening Nov 13.
- **Next Meeting** – Justin has arranged for Michael Perrera from Hunger Offering to speak.

Joe Wright closed with prayer.

Submitted,
Rick Hodsdon