

## **Justice Ministries Coordinating Team Meeting**

Tuesday, December 6, 2017

**Members Present:** Chris Breunig, Karen Knudson, Justin Mills, Marjorie Ringness, Carolyn White

**Members Absent:** Betsy Bell, Rick Hodsdon, Tom Campbell, Jacquelyn Miller, Tom Sunderland, Steve Thomason, David Wagner, Joe Wright

**Guest:** Michael Perera

Carolyn opened with prayer at 7:10 p.m.

### **Justice Ministry Spotlight: Hunger Offering**

Michael Perera attended as ministry lead person, helped by Liz Shea and Roland Yancey and Nancy Pearson. Michael reported that the voluntary contributions collected one Sunday a month totaled \$11,000 in 2016; monthly contributions are then distributed to six food programs; he thinks this year's contributions will be "on target." Michael has invited several coordinators of these programs to be present at Justice's Hunger table; he would like to reactivate the engagement between cathedral and partner food banks and suggests that "expectations of partnership" be identified through which representatives from facility again coming to SMC and perhaps a reciprocal visit from SMC individuals to program. Michael was frank in saying that if he is elected to the Vestry, he would relinquish his lead role for Hunger Offering.

### **2018 Meeting Dates**

Consensus was to retain 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday as our regular meeting time.

January 2 or 9 (Justin will query members' availability)

February 6

March 6

April 3

May 1

June 5

July 3 (?)

August 7

September 4

October 2

November 6

December 4

### **Episcopal Peace Fellowship**

Question was whether to continue a donation of \$250 to this National Episcopal Organization which seeks to do justice, dismantle violence and strive to be peacemakers. We approved this contribution. Carolyn volunteered to talk with Mac Brown to understand more of work of this branch of Episcopal Justice work and why we should support it.

## **Annual Reports**

One concern had been expressed that the software did not enable user to save work if only partially complete. Justin will provide an alternative format when used next year. Emerging also is that St. Brigid's Banquet, Homeless Initiative, and possibly Hunger Offering may need new leadership.

**Racial Reconciliation:** One story of success arising from work of Racial Reconciliation is Northwest Bail Bond Fund, facilitated by Mary Lonien. One of their goals is to continue to address difficult topics by holding conversations about race. JMCT can help ministry by continuing to find ways for other ministries might partner on conversations, events, with necessary publicity.

**Hate Crimes/Hate Speech De-escalation Ministry:** Bob Chapman did inform JMCT of previously held activities throughout 2017 and indicated that the group is brainstorming possible events they might sponsor in 2018. However, the group formed as a result of the Baptismal Covenant Document approved last January and functions in parallel with but outside the direct "umbrella" of JMCT.

**Friends of Saint Mark's Greenbelt:** Each year the group receives about \$3500 of plant materials from Green Seattle Partnership with which they replant the greenbelt with native plants. This past year they planted about 700 plants. Robert Hayden suggests that JMCT can either "show interest in the Greenbelt or remove us as a formal ministry associated with Saint Mark's." Specifically this past year the funding allocation made for them was not communicated to the group until August. Carolyn noted that Robert Hayden has recently been recognized by Green Seattle Partnership for his 10 years as a Forest Steward. Marjorie suggested that we prepare a piece recognizing his work for one of the SMC's publications. Cara Peterson and The Rev. Cristi Chapman have recently walked into the greenbelt and brainstormed a couple ideas for outreach to the individuals who occupy space there.

**Noel House:** Although Norva Osborn had met with JMCT last month, its work was again discussed because of the funding crisis resulting from the Seattle City Council's decision to implement a program with a different focus with which to meet needs of homeless individuals. Noel House is under the Catholic Community Services and through its Women's Referral Center (WRC), 180 women are sent to appropriate shelters nightly. It has lost its funding which has significant ramifications for how the women can get to Saint Mark's regularly. Karen asked that Vestry be notified of this development. On a related homeless ministry, Karen mentioned that St. Brigid's Banquet is a recipient of The Hunger Offering and is currently undergoing a transition of leadership, also that many of its volunteers are not directly connected with SMC. The Rev. Cristi Chapman now has the list of volunteers and is contacting them.

The reports of remaining ministries will be reviewed at the January meeting.

## **JMCT Retreat**

Several topics were suggested, including organizational structure. Members' terms of service was reviewed because Chris and Karen will no longer be on Vestry and serving as liaison with our group; both indicated they would be willing to continue. Marjorie preparing a roster of current members with their dates of service. + The need for advocacy for homelessness issues was identified and there was a feeling that having a central, single focus would be more productive and perhaps this topic might become vehicle to address and would also reveal organizational insight. Names for suggested facilitators were mentioned including Pete Strimer, Maria Coldwell and Lynn Marcova. We have \$1000 budgeted for a retreat.

### **Lowell Elementary Homeless Initiative**

Marjorie has taken initiative for determining initial ways that we might extend Christmas generosity to some of these children and publicized that through Sundays and Beyond. Children's names were placed on the Giving Tree and have been selected by parishioners. Because of nearness of holiday and school ending for vacation on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, gift items and foods for children to have over holiday will need to be returned by Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. Our sponsoring a speaker from Lowell to discuss its situation was suggested. Karen revisited the issue of process by which we identify new initiatives. Chris reminded us that he and Rick have begun draft for how this might occur.

### **Samaritan App**

Carolyn had no further information about this app as a means for donating directly to homeless individuals.

Chris closed the meet with prayer at 8:40 p.m.

Our next meeting will be held either on January 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Leffler Living Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn White