

## Justice Ministries Coordinating Team Meeting

Tuesday, January 2, 2018

**Members Present:** Karen Knudson, Justin Mills, Marjorie Ringness, Carolyn White, Betsy Bell, Tom Campbell

**Members Absent:** Rick Hodsdon, Jacquelyn Miller, Tom Sunderland, David Wagner, Joe Wright, Chris Breunig, Steve Thomason

Justin opened with prayer at 7:00 p.m.

**Annual Reports** - The report from the Mid-East Focus ministry was reviewed. One comment from the group that was noted was “a challenge to be relevant to parishioners,” with so many other issues facing people. This led to a discussion about how best to publicize a ministry’s efforts. We discussed reviving the weekly justice table in the nave during Sunday services. And also the idea of having a justice ministry featured weekly in Sundays & Beyond.

There was discussion about the need for a Communications Coordinator for the JMCT. We will submit an announcement for S&B to recruit for this position, as well as new general membership to the JMCT. Michael Perera is an excellent writer and was mentioned as someone who may be willing to coordinate communications for the JMCT. **Justin** committed to ask Michael about this.

Another comment in the Mid-East Focus ministry report was the hope to collaborate more with the Syrian Refugee ministry. However, the Refugee ministry is not particularly active currently because of recent policies reducing immigration to the U.S.

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

**JMCT Retreat** - There was lengthy discussion about a retreat. **A motion was passed**, to determine that **the topic of a future retreat will be Homeless Advocacy/Services**.

We discussed whether the retreat should be mainly for JMCT members - rather than all of Justice Ministries – so that JMCT can be more effective in coming up with recommendations to the Vestry regarding homeless ministries at Saint Mark’s. However, we think there should also be a wider forum of some kind before the retreat, to educate and become better informed about the issue. We should have a facilitator at the retreat. **Justin** will have another discussion with Steve to get his input about topic, participants, and timing of the retreat.

Justin has been contacted by Liz Bartenstein to gather information for **Saint Mark’s Annual Report**. Marjorie and Justin will work on this together.

**Noel House** - Carolyn reported that the maximum occupancy for women at the Saint Mark’s shelter has been raised to 40. The soup team is working on creating a second soup team to

accommodate serving more women. Marjorie reported that the City did reinstate funding for the Women's Referral Center for 4-6 months, which will allow women to continue to be referred to our shelter.

Carolyn also distributed a proposed announcement for Sundays & Beyond regarding **Carbon Offset**. The announcement met the approval of those present.

**FAN Advocacy Day** – The team suggested that, in an effort to get more involvement, we see if **Tom Sunderland** would have time to craft a Sundays and Beyond notice, and spread the word as he sees fit. Others on the team will spread the word as well.

**JMCT Members and length of terms** – Marjorie collected information relating to when everyone present had joined the JMCT. We can talk at a future meeting about a possible structure for term limits on the Team.

**Lowell Elementary Homeless Initiative** - Marjorie reported that there was a successful gift and food drive for Christmas. There are currently about 15 people interested in volunteering in various ways at the school. Volunteers and members of the school staff will meet on January 11. It is our hope to develop a long-term relationship with the school as an effort to help the many homeless students enrolled there. **Marjorie** will complete an annual justice ministry report as a way to formalize this new ministry and keep the JMCT informed.

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

Our next meeting will be held February 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Leffler Living Room.

Minutes submitted by Marjorie Ringness