

## **Justice Ministries Coordinating Team Meeting**

Tuesday, February 06, 2018

Leffler House

**Members Present:** Betsy Bell, Chris Breunig, Tom Campbell, Jacquelyn Miller, Justin Mills, Marjorie Ringness, Tom Sunderland, Steve Thomason, David Wagner, Carolyn White

**Members Absent:** Rick Hodsdon, Karen Knudson, Joe Wright

**Visitors:** Malcolm McLaurin, Emily Austin, Sue Ratner, Barbara Erickson, Michael Perera

Tom S. opened with prayer at 7:03 p.m.

### **Introduction of Potential New Members**

Justin introduced our guests, including several individuals who are considering becoming members of the JMCT, including Sue Ratner, Barbara Erickson, and Michael Perera.

### **Justice Ministry Spotlight**

Malcolm reported on the activities of two of the groups with which he works, the Racial Reconciliation ministry and the Seattle Service Corps. He noted that the Racial Reconciliation participants have refocused their efforts on personal formation and this approach has reenergized the group.

He also filled us in on the current activities of the Seattle Service Corps members, particularly detailing where the corps members are serving and what they do on site. He asked for us to let him know if we had suggestions of possible future non-profits with which the members could work. He also noted that next year's group is currently being recruited.

### **Foot Washing Supply Drive**

Emily reported on the Community Resource Exchange, a day-long event, which will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Century Link Event Center. It is sponsored by United Way and usually has around 3,000 in attendance. One of many activities is a foot washing ceremony that in recent years has expanded to also include general foot care. As a result, the Cathedral is collecting a variety of items, including nail clippers, foot powder, socks, and other foot care products to facilitate that aspect of the event.

### **JMCT Meeting Length**

We decided to lengthen our monthly meetings from one and a half hours to two hours so that we can spend more time on the large number of agenda items we regularly need to address. We also plan to begin our meetings at 6:30 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m.

### **JMCT Annual Retreat**

The topic of this year's retreat will be on homeless advocacy and services. A three-person subcommittee was charged to develop ideas about the agenda and organization of the event. The members include Sue and David from the JCMT and David is going to reach out to Norva Olson to see if she or some other member from the Noel House ministry will join them.

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

Marjorie noted that there is a need for a new liaison from St. Marks to work with this organization. She was going to place an ad in the *Sundays and Beyond* in an effort to locate someone for this role, but on further thought, will wait and discuss with Karen on next steps, as there currently isn't much for the UCEF liaison to do in the near-term. She also informed us that there will likely be a toiletries drive in May for those in need.

### **Lowell Elementary Homeless Initiative**

Marjorie also reported that St. Mark's has about fifteen people who plan to volunteer with the students. The school has four hundred students, including about eighty homeless students and many who are medically fragile.

### **Loose Plate Collections**

There has been some interest in potentially dedicating a portion of the weekly collection plate to justice ministries, but we decided to postpone a discussion on this topic until next year.

### **Hunger Offering**

Michael informed us that \$8200 was donated in 2017, which is less than what was given in 2016. He attributed this drop in donations to a slightly lower attendance during the construction project.

He also reported that he would be leaving the role as leader of this ministry and will be working to find a replacement soon.

### **Death Penalty Repeal (Senate Bill 5354)**

Mary Seagall contacted Justin to ask which ministry at St. Mark's might want to address this issue. Tom S. noted that the Faith Action Network (FAN) is involved in advocating for the repeal. Justin will report back to Mary that we will encourage people to attend the FAN Legislative Advocacy Day event on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Community Lunch**

We've been asked to collect tooth brushes, tooth paste, and hoodies to donate to the Community Lunch, a non-profit organization that serves meals at Cal Anderson Park and provides clothing and toiletries to homeless individuals. No decision was made to participate at this point, but hope to consider such invitations as part of the annual retreat discussion.

**Hunthausen Fund**

Steve informed us that he, Christi Chapman, David, and Carolyn will be attending a meeting at St. James Cathedral to learn about their program to help people move out of homelessness by paying their first and last month's rent.

**Rapid Rehousing**

Carolyn mentioned that the City Council rapid rehousing efforts will redirect funds away from many current organizations that support homeless causes, including Noel House, and asked us to write in opposition to this effort.

**St. Bridget's Banquet**

Marjorie reported that three people have stepped forward to lead the meals served at Teen Feed and St. Martin de Porres.

**DACA Legislation**

Betsy reported on her experience of calling members of Congress about this issue.

Jacquelyn offered a closing prayer at 8:34.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Our next meeting will be held on March 6, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in **Leffler House**.

Minutes submitted by Jacquelyn Miller