

## **Justice Ministries Coordinating Team Meeting**

Tuesday, February 07, 2017

Cathedral House 101

**Members Present:** Betsy Bell, Chris Breunig, Tom Campbell, Louise Gringel-Caswell, Jacquelyn Miller, Marjorie Ringness,

**Members Absent:** Rick Hodsdon, Karen Knudson, Carolyn White

Chris opened with prayer at 7:05 p.m.

### **Seattle World School**

Marjorie has submitted a petition to the Vestry to designate one plate offering before April 2 to purchase food gift cards for students of the Seattle World School during its 2017 spring break. Most of the students are from low-income immigrant families. St. Mark's was approached by Temple de Hirsch to collaborate with their community on this project.

**Action Step:** Christopher or Karen will present the petition to the Vestry at their February 18 meeting.

We also discussed other ways to serve this community in the future, but no firm plans were made.

### **Statement of Commitment and Action Forums**

We discussed our committee's role in working with the groups who have been created as a response to the Vestry-approved statement of commitment and action. Betsy noted how important it is to ensure that we continue to focus on the spiritual underpinnings of the work that these groups will be doing.

We agreed that our committee serves as a communication liaison for the current justice ministries and as a sounding board for new ministry ideas and can also serve in this capacity with these new groups. The JMCT also serves in an information-gathering capacity and facilitates collaboration among justice ministries, as well as collaboration with other ministries at St. Mark's; we will attempt to serve in this role with these new groups.

One concern that was raised is that none of these groups are explicitly advocating for sustainability issues and it was noted that those individuals who have led in this area in the past have stepped down. Marjorie noted that she has written Lauren Witt, the contact person for the new Advocacy ministry, to ask whether anyone in this group might be interested in championing this issue as well as larger economic justice issues. With regard to the topic of climate change, we also discussed promoting efforts for parishioners to purchase carbon offsets when travelling.

**Action Step:** Marjorie volunteered to review and become familiar with the link on the Diocese website that allows people to donate funds to the Carbon Offsets Cooperative Mission program in the Philippines for reforestation and to look into setting up an information table after Sunday morning services sometime in the near future.

Marjorie also mentioned that there is some energy in the parish to support the Lummis and their protests against the Cherry Point Refinery but that people need to be found to coordinate and lead this effort.

**Action Step:** Marjorie asked that the JMCT help spread the word and consider who may be interested to take the lead in this area.

One of the new ministries arising out of this statement is promoting visits to local Mosques. Marjorie and Chris reported on their recent visits to the Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS) in Redmond. Marjorie was also part of a small group that visited a prayer service at the Idris Mosque near Northgate last week. Louise recommended that we attend the potluck that will be sponsored by the Idris Mosque on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Tom suggested that we learn whether they have equivalent justice ministries around homelessness or hunger and, if so, whether we might be able to partner in addressing these issues.

**Action Step:** Marjorie volunteered to pass along this suggestion to Brett Bowton-Meade the leader of this group.

**Action Step:** Betsy is going to meet with a couple members from the new ministry group interested in providing hospitality for immigrants and refugees and share her knowledge about how the city is responding to immigrant rights issues.

It was also noted that the new prison ministry grew out of the racial reconciliation group and sponsored an event on February 1st where Chris Hoke, founder of Tierra Nueva's Gang Initiative, shared stories about his work with former gang members and men released from prison to reach out to a new generation of hurting youth.

### **Recruitment of New JMCT Members**

Marjorie reported that David Wagner has agreed to join the JMCT.

*Action Step:* Marjorie will talk with the clergy about other possible new members.

### **Partners' Meeting**

The date for the next partners' meeting will be April 30<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-2:00.

Louise offered a closing prayer at 8:25.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Our next meeting will be held on March 7, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in Leffler Living Room.

Minutes submitted by Jacquelyn Miller