

Justice Ministries Coordinating Team Meeting

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Leffler House

Members Present: Betsy Bell, Chris Breunig, Rick Hodsdon, Karen Knudson, Jacquelyn Miller, Marjorie Ringness, David Wagner, Carolyn White

Members Absent: Tom Campbell, Louise Gringel-Caswell

Visitor: Lynne Markova

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

Cathedral Day

Some individuals have volunteered to help with parking and other aspects of the event, but no need for our committee to volunteer as a group.

Partners' Meeting

Discussed the low attendance at the April meeting and whether we need to rethink the purpose of the meetings, the number of meetings per year, and whether Sunday afternoons are the best time to hold them. No decisions were made at this time.

Justice Ministry Initiative Process

In response to an earlier action step to rethink our initiative process, Rick submitted a proposal that our process involve the following five steps:

1. Foster awareness of "justice issues" within our congregation.
2. Evaluate initiatives for ministries that address such issues (and approve or decline initiative status to the organization).
3. Provide ongoing support for the new as well as existing ministries using our resources (including personnel, advice, communication channels, and financial aid).
4. Administer ministries' annual self-evaluations as part of JMCT's annual reporting and budget process.
5. End the association when a ministry has fulfilled its mission, or its mission has changed so that it is no longer relevant to the needs of the St Mark's community; or the ministry is no longer able to continue its work within the framework laid down by JMCT.

In addition, the suggestion was made that we need to ensure that new initiatives are connected to the Justice Ministries mission statement and the St. Mark' strategic plan and to our baptismal covenant.

We also discussed the fact that all potential ministries are not equal so that the application process needs to recognize that some ministries require much more from the Cathedral in terms of space, financial support, and/or other resources and volunteer participation; it needs to ask how a potential new ministry might interact with other ministries at the Cathedral; and any budget needs of a new ministry should be run through the Finance Committee before approval is given.

Finally, the application process needs to lay out the expectations that are expected from the ministries, which should include the submission of an annual report.

Action Step: Rick, Chris, and Lynne will create a draft of the appropriate application documents and present them at our next meeting.

Another issue that we discussed had to do with which Cathedral activities fit under the auspices of the JMCT and the need to be more specific as to how we define what a justice ministry is.

Green Belt

We discussed the frustration expressed by the stewards of the green belt and how difficult it is to encourage use of the area because of the problems with homelessness and drug use in the area. Three thousand pounds of trash was recently removed by the Police Department and Parks Department, but because homeless people reside in the area, we expect that the trash problem will continue. We realize the issue is a city-wide problem, and we will continue to offer support when appropriate.

Tiny House Project

The project has been tabled for the present given the current construction activities at the Cathedral.

New Chair of JMCT

Marjorie reminded the committee that she is interested in leaving the chair position soon and is hoping someone will volunteer soon to replace her.

Rick offered a closing prayer at 8:35.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Our next meeting will be held on June 6, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in Leffler Living Room.

Minutes submitted by Jacquelyn Miller