

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MINUTES September 14, 2017

A meeting of the First Parish full Social Justice committee was held on Sept. 14, 2017 at the church. Present were: Janet Dye, Frankie Finnegan, Betty Gilson and Rev. Rachel Tedesco. The following issues were discussed and decided.

The bank balance is \$2,441.77 of which \$269.75 is for the *Read to Me, Father* program.

Report from the SJC core committee

- a. The Raise Up Mass. Campaign began today in Brockton. We're working with the Coalition for Social Justice (CSJ) and the Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC) for two bills: Fight for \$15 (minimum wage) and Paid Family and Medical Leave. The kickoff meeting was held this afternoon at the Brockton Public Library, 304 Main Street. Rachel will check on film to show some evening.
- b. BSU Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice (MRISJ) is holding a fund-raising concert on Sunday, October 1 at 3:00 pm at BSU Rondileau Campus Center Auditorium. See poster.
- c. Proposed – "School of the Prophets" training by Will Dickerson, BIC Director, beginning in October. (Four 2-hour sessions; dates TBA). To teach techniques of conducting 1:1 meetings between congregation members. Purpose: to discover what issues matter most to people; where our true passions lie. Rachel will send out notices on these meetings.
- d. Proposed "No Place for Hate" signs. We agreed to purchase a few from the First Parish Church in Taunton. They can be hung at church, give to local organizations and businesses, and sold to parishioners. Rachel will ask Rev. Paul to order a dozen.
- e. UU Mass Action – Our church is still a supporting member, but Rachel resigned from executive state board.
- f. Conference on Mass Incarceration- The New Jim Crow, January 20, 2018 at All Souls Church in Braintree. Rachel was contacted by George Goss, their SJC Chair. Some of us will try to attend this.
- g. The Annual Coming Out Day program with the Pride Office at BSU will be held on Tues., Oct. 3 from 11:00 am – noon. The theme is *Getting to Know UU*. We will be serving a light brunch. A BSU student is making a flyer for us to post. Volunteers are needed to do the brunch. Janet will bring fruit and Betty will make Twists.

Report from First Principle Project

- a. The *Read to Me, Father* group is working on a special program for the Fathers' Group at Old Colony Correctional Center. It is a 12 week program *Nurturing Fathers*. Sonia D'Alarcao has been trained to lead the program through her work at BAMSI. Some of the tutors met earlier this week to plan the first two classes starting on Oct. 4.
- b. We discussed whether or not we should get a separate Black Lives Matter flag. The group decided that for now we should just fly the We Believe banner and work on specific activities for BLM.

Report for Green Sanctuary Committee

1. Ongoing project - Green supplies supplied to church
2. Donated \$100.00 from Metal recycling project and \$67.50 from the 4th of July event to Bridgewater Food Pantry
3. CD/DVD & jewel cases recycling is available.
4. Little Free Library - Pat Hart with Frank Yeatman's help is almost ready to place this at the Bridgewater MBTA Station.
5. Solstice sign has been hung under wayside pulpit.
6. Updated info for SJC brochure.
7. In partnership with Bridgewater Green Committee we will be collecting/distributing reusable bags at AutumnFest.

Report for Peace Committee

- a. The annual Peace Celebration will be held at the Sept. 24 morning service. People will gather at the Peace Pole for readings and song both before and after morning worship.
- b. Peter Jansen will play Gathering Music and the Offertory.
- c. Rev. Paul has asked for people to tell about their experiences with struggles for peace. Janet and Rachel will tell their experiences. Frankie will send his thoughts to Betty. Betty will ask Bobbe Anderson to tell briefly about her recently organized vigils.

UU Animal Ministry was not represented. But Korin may be working on an idea for an October Bulletin Board

Future Plans

- a. Guest at Your Table Sunday is Nov. 19. Rev. Paul will be preaching, but the SJC members will offer to participate. Betty will order 25 of the boxes and other materials as soon as they are available from the UUSC.
- b. The SJC will have a table at the Holly Day Faire on Dec. 8 & 9. Janet will order some Equal Exchange items. She will also check on the availability of purses from a Mandela Fellow from Uganda. We will sell gift cards for MainSpring House lunch donations.

Other business

- a. Betty reported on the meeting she and Rev. Paul had with Kelly Brotzman the new director of the MRISJ. She wanted to learn about the social justice activities at First Parish and is interested in having us work with the institute and support their events.
- b. Dr. Brotzman told us about a series of Justice Talks they are planning for the fall. Thurs., Sept. 21 from 12:30 -1:30 pm at the Rondileau Campus Center small ballroom a panel will discuss Homelessness. Future talks will be on Immigration in October, Health Justice in November and Just Policing in December.

- c. First Parish and the SJC will co-sponsor with Bridgewater Citizens for Civility and Respect Active Bystanders' Training. This will be held Nov. 14, 2017 at the Bridgewater Senior Center from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. This will be a training session for up to 50 people. BCCR is applying for a grant and Betty cosigned the proposal for the church.

7. Next meetings

Thurs., Oct. 5, 2017 at 7:00 pm the SJC will meet at the church. McKayla Hoffman will attend to discuss some proposals from the Worship Committee.

Thurs., Nov 2, 2017 at 7:00 pm the full SJC will meet at the church.

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