

Notes from full Social Justice Committee meeting, Thursday Sept. 6, 2018. – by Joanna Elsmore, Rev. Rachel Tedesco & Betty Gilson

Present: Rev. Paul Sprecher, Rev. Rachel Tedesco, Pearl Cohen, Sonia D'Alarcao, Janet Dye, Betty Gilson, Susan Irish, Laurie Lessner, Joanna Elsmore

Bank account \$3,300.56. \$1,125.77 has been set aside for *Read to Me, Father*.

The 9/23/18 Peace Sunday service was discussed. Vernon Domingo from BCCR is to speak on the subject of peace and reconciliation and Nelson Mandela. And Jack Hart may speak about Desmond Tutu. Due to the potentially disturbing nature of the subject, this part of the service is restricted to a minimum age of junior high. Nelson Mandela will be discussed at a future service for all age groups.

Ideas were generated regarding activities for the ORSH on 9/23. It was suggested that the children could decorate the bulletin board in the UPH. There are several pre-made paper cranes that can be used to decorate. Sonia D'Alarcao will share these ideas with the RE committee at their upcoming meeting on Tuesday.

Janet Dye of Green Sanctuary discussed their plans on organizing two services: one for Kids to Camp and the other on Arbor Day. She said that the metal recycling program will not be held this year. Christine Wyman, head of Social Catalyst, and an associate will be coming to Bridgewater to visit Green Sanctuary members. This organization makes bags and purses out of old VHS tapes.

Plans for future Share the Plate donations were discussed. The schedule for the next four months: Sept. Matthew Mission (formerly Matthew 25); Oct. BIC; Nov. Guest at Your Table; Dec. RE is to decide. Some additional local charities were presented for consideration. Website links were provided. It is requested that SJC members review these prior to the next meeting. Please see the links at the end of the report.

The placement of the banners in front of the church on School Street was discussed. The "We believe" sign will be exchanged with the "Standing on the Side of Love" banner so it will be seen from the street coming from BSU. Placement of a plexiglass box on the sign to hold church pamphlets was discussed so people can read more information about our church's beliefs. The dimensions and placement of the box will be discussed and decided later.

We discussed the Black Lives Matter film series selections. Joanna suggested we eliminate *Mrs. Ever's Boys* from the list and we agreed. *Malcolm X* was suggested and we will add that. It was agreed that we should have a discussion after each film with a leader from the SJC and/or BCCR. Betty will contact Susan McCombe and Kelly Brotzman about other people at BSU who can possibly interest students in attending the films. (Emails were sent.) The movie for September is to be *Race*, the story of Jesse Owens.

Rev. Sprecher would like to organize a book club and discussion group. Several books were discussed, one topic being white fragility. He is open for any suggestions. There is also a movie "The Wilderness Journey: The Struggle for Black Empowerment and Racial Justice within the UUA 1967-1970". It is a one hour and a quarter long. It is

unknown if people would prefer Sunday after services, Sunday 7 p.m. or the second Tuesday a month. It was decided that a survey form be passed out during a worship service and collected for a community vote to increase participation. Sonia volunteered to design the survey sheet.

The semi-annual coming out pot luck with the BSU Pride Center is rapidly approaching and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Rev. Rachel announced that on Thursday October 25, from 3 to 5 p.m., the Social Justice Committee and the Martin Richards Institute for Social Justice are co-hosting an Advocacy & Activism Fair at the BSU math & science building atrium. Our church will also host a six foot long display table. It was suggested that we should have a special tablecloth made for the fair with a recognizable UU logo and the church name for the table. This it could be used many times. Janet is to look into making this. Pearl volunteered to be at the table and Janet will see if she is also free. She will verify this before Oct 25. Rev. Rachel will provide SJC brochures, flyers on the BLM film series and other info for the table. It was proposed we get a display trifold for greater visibility. And get more rainbow chalice pins made to pass out. This will encourage more activity at table. Details will be discussed at the next meeting. Janet will contact the Rotary about hosting a table at the fair.

Joanna has a friend who might be able to do a talk on the KKK in Lebanon, NH.

Rev. Rachel told about her meeting with Will Dickerson of BIC and about their plans. We may consider working with them and the Brockton Area NAACP in the future. And also possibly include BSU groups. At the next meeting the SJC will discuss recommendations by BIC to participate in a workshop called "School of Prophetic Witness". It involves communication to bond as a community. Rev. Rachel will look into this matter.

It was announced that the next SJC meeting is Thurs., Oct. 4, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the church.

Meeting adjourned 8:20 pm.

Taunton River Watershed Alliance: <http://savethetaunton.org/about-us/mission-statement/>

Health Imperatives: <http://healthimperatives.org/>

Old Colony Elder Services: <https://www.ocesma.org/about-old-colony-elder-services/>

Keeping Pace with Multiple Miracles:

<http://keepingpace.org/>

Comfort Zone Camp: <https://www.comfortzonecamp.org/about-us>