

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 13, 2020

A meeting of the Social Justice Committee was held Feb. 13 at the church. Present were Betty Gilson, Rev. Rachel Tedesco, Sonia D'Alarcao and Susan Irish. The following issues were discussed and decided.

1. Bank balance \$4,482.50 of which \$1,406.78 is for *Read to Me, Father* and \$131.00 is for RE scholarships.
2. The upcoming schedule for the BLM Film Series was reviewed. No changes in the list were recommended. David Wilson had an issue with ordering DVD's. He will live stream future films. For publicity, flyers should be posted on Facebook. Tony or Laurie will be asked to do this. Betty will ask David Wilson to make a large sign to be posted on the Wayside Pulpit.
3. Share the Plate Charities report. In Jan., \$317 was collected for The Soupman program for the homeless. The schedule in the coming months:
 - February: South Coast LGBTQ Network, Inc. The mission of this local organization is to build and maintain a comprehensive support network for LGBTQ individuals and families across the age spectrum.
 - March: UU Mass Action
 - April and May: Kids to Camp (Green Sanctuary)
 - June: We decided to collect for an RE scholarship for youth stays at Star Island or Ferry Beach. Sonia will write up a description.
4. Welcoming Congregation Renewal activities. Sonia reported on the Jan. 19 discussion she led after church on "The ABC's of LGBTQ". It went well and was well attended. There are plans for the Sunday, Feb. 16th Nights Out event. Angela Sheble will lead a program and discussion on "Coming Out".
5. Report on *UU the Vote!* Rachel & David Tedesco had a gathering to view the UU the Vote webinar at their house on Jan. 12. Eileen Hiney, Frank Yeatman, Kate Martin and Betty Gilson attended the meeting.
6. Report from Rev. Rachel on her activities over the past month:
 - a) Attended the GSC Standouts on Jan. 11 and Feb. 11 in Bridgewater Center to call attention to the need for climate action. Co-sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee and the Bridgewater Green Committee.
 - b) Attended the Safe Communities Act hearing on Jan. 24 at the State House with members of the Coalition for Social Justice. Also present were organizers from UU Mass Action;
 - c) Recruited Janet Dye and Eileen Hiney to work as volunteers for the Mass Bail Fund in SE Mass. An orientation session will be set up as soon as possible. Date TBD.
 - d) Attended the Feb. 11 BCCR meeting at the Bridgewater Senior Center.
7. Other business.
 - a) The group decided to reschedule the April meeting to avoid conflict with the showing of "We Did It for You" at BSU on April 2. The new date will be Thursday, April 9.
 - b) It was decided to show an Indigenous People's film series in the Fall, September thru November, in response to the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower Landing. The BLM film series will be temporarily suspended. Betty will email Sam Baumgarten to check with BCCR about this decision.
 - c) Sonia suggested that we use a shelf on the bookcase in the hall between the Sanctuary and Upper Parish Hall for social justice books for people to borrow. Betty said she would also put the Black Lives Matter DVD's there. She will put First Parish butterfly stickers on the cases.

- d) Sonia mentioned that the Little Free Library is sometimes blocked by vehicles parking there. She thought maybe a small garden around it would keep it more visible. She will mention this to the Green Sanctuary Committee.
- e) Lastly, Betty planned to send an email to all “no shows” on her SJC meeting list to ask them if they wanted to remain on the contact list.

The next meeting of the Full SJC was scheduled for Thurs. March 5 at 7:00 pm at the church.
The following SJC meeting was scheduled for April 9 at 7:00 p.m.