

## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT for JULY 30, 2020

A meeting of the Social Justice Committee was held by ZOOM on July 30 at 7:30 pm. Present were: Debbie Baumgarten, Janet Dye, Betty Gilson, Rev. Rachel Tedesco and Lisa Troy. The following issues were discussed and decided.

1. Bank account balance is \$4,021.78 of which \$1,283.22 is for *Read to Me, Father* and \$131.00 is for RE Scholarships.
2. MainSpring House lunches
  - a. Another successful lunch prep was held on July 22. The number of lunches is now down to 75 lunches.
  - b. Betty has secured Aug. 11 for the next lunch preparation, and will send out notices in the weekly emails.
3. *Black Lives Matter* Film series
  - a. *The Condor and the Eagle* is now available in many ways. We voted to have a showing of this on September 22 since it is considered an Indigenous film. Some of us have seen part of it. Debbie will investigate ways to arrange for people to view it.
  - b. Rebecca Cordeiro has made 2 suggestions for BLM films. She has arranged for *True Justice* to be shown on Dec. 28. She is working on arrangements. It is a documentary about Bryan Stevenson's fight for equality. Some church members have read his book *Just Mercy*.
  - c. The second film Rebecca suggested is a documentary, *The Uncomfortable Truth*, which examines the 400 year history of institutional racism in the US. We will try to schedule this for November. Betty will check into viewing options.
  - d. Sonia had a list of suggestions for another Indigenous film. We will ask her to research scheduling options for the best choice.
4. UU the Vote
  - a. The Parish Committee, in conjunction with Eileen Hiney from the Events Committee, is planning on organizing a 50-50 raffle to raise money for this program. Betty and Lisa are interested in helping in any way needed.
  - b. Lisa also volunteered to make signs to post at the church alerting the community to critical Voting Dates and the importance of voting.
5. Rachel briefly highlighted information from GA about Social Justice Action to be considered. Betty will forward the information for our consideration. We would like opinions from committee members on which actions we should emphasize.
6. The Parish Committee asked what we will be doing for anti-racism and the BLM movement beyond the protests.
  - a. Several church members are registered for the 3-session program Friends for Life on *Eradicating Racism: A Path Forward*. It is being presented on ZOOM by D.I.C.E. and BCCR.
  - b. We voted to buy a BLM banner for the church. Betty will contact Rev. Paul about the best choices.
  - c. After reviewing the UUA info from GA, we will select a group for the Sept. Share the Plate donations.

- d. One other area we agreed on is working with the Bridgewater Police department in some way. We will be investigating ideas.

The next meeting will be a Full SJC meeting on. Sept. 3, 2020 at 7:30 pm, possibly on ZOOM.