SJC MEETING AUGUST 4, 2022

A meeting of the Social Justice Committee was held August 4, 2022 via zoom. Present were: Sonia D’Alarcao, A J Derby, Betty Gilson, Susan Holton, Laurie Lessner, Rev. Rachel Tedesco, and Lisa Troy. The following issues were discussed and decided.

1.The bank balance is $4,732.55. Of the total $1,255.82 isfor *Read to Me, Father* and $131.00 is for RE scholarships.

2. A J Derby presented ideas about holding an event highlighting Indigenous people as an alternative to Thanksgiving.

a. She would like the SJC to raise awareness of Indigenous people and have us work for their recognition. The congregation should continue supporting laws related to this.

b. She suggested our reading the magazine “Plimoth/Pawtuxet Life: the Thanksgiving edition”. This has information we might use including recipes.

c. One suggestion is to have an event at church and invite the public. Need Indigenous presenters, possibly vendors. RE should be involved in some way.

d. Laurie suggest an “original” feast with Indigenous speakers.

e. Lisa will send us info from a BSU workshop which may help in our plans.

f. Susan told us of a former student Paula, who is Mashpee and an excellent speaker. She will contact her.

g. Rachel will contact an African-American woman who spoke at the Juneteenth flag raising ceremony at the Town Hall. The speaker also referred to her Indigenous ancestry and may be a possible speaker at the Thanksgiving event.

h. Sonia suggested our OoS should carry a notice similar to that used by other groups acknowledging that our sanctuary is built on native land. We agreed that this should be done. Sonia and others will check for appropriate messages, to be decided by the Parish Committee.

i. Betty suggested that dependent on the covid situation November 2022 may be too soon for a meal. We will need to consider this and make final decisions later. The program might possibly also be on zoom.

3. BLM film series

a. We will continue showing some films about black issues and will include some about indigenous issues. We will also check on films about other marginalized groups.

b. One suggestions was “The New World”, a retelling of the Pocahontas story.

c. Laurie suggested reading “Concrete Rose” which is a prequel to “The Hate U Give”. We had shown the movie “The Hate…” and some of us read the book.

d. Other suggested books were: “The Sum of Us” by Heather McGhee, about the economic consequences for us all from racism; and “From the Deep Woods to Civilization” by Charles Eastman about the first Native American to be certified in Western medicine.

4. Plate selections

a. The donation for April and May for *Kids to Camp* was $1,525.54.

b. The collection for June for The Wandering Heart was $727.56.

b. July and August charity was for MainSpring and Evelyn House Homeless Shelters. Still checking on amount.

c. Sept. will be for backpacks for School on Wheels.

Sowma.org/get-involved/donate/supply-drive

d. Oct. will be for BIC (Brockton Interfaith Community).

e. June will be for a LGBTQ+ charity to be determined.

5. MainSpring and Evelyn House lunches will continue with the same protocol. They will be prepared on Thurs., Sept. 1.

6. Green Sanctuary plans

a. Presented July 10 Summer Service entitled "Caring for Farmers and the Environment” with Equal Exchange rep Elisa Blanchard—29 people in attendance plus a few via Zoom. Good feedback.

b. YMCA plastic bottle elimination initiative—the GSC team sent a letter to the President/CEO of the Southeast MA YMCAs re: education and awareness for reducing/eliminating single plastic bottle use at local Ys. We hope to meet to discuss ideas.

c. Ginger and Janet delivered CDs and their cases to recycling facility in NH.

7. Peace Committee plans

a. Will do a summer service on. Aug. 21 on “Kindness as a Path to Peace”.

b. As a start for the Peace Week in Bridgewater being planned by the International Cities of Peace Committee, there will be a short Opening Ceremony at the Peace Pole before morning worship. Perhaps at 9:30 or 10.

c. International Day of Peace Service will be on Sept. 18.

d. Betty will contact Fran Jeffries, chair of the International Cities of Peace, to update her on plans.

9. Juneteenth Report

a. The Second Annual Bridgewater Juneteenth Celebration, which was held in the church yard, was very successful

b. The planning group will be meeting in September. Lisa wondered about getting the Martin Richard Institute at BSU involved. She will investigate this.

10. Welcoming Congregation Committee plans

a. Will hold a service on October 9 on intersectionality.

b. The suggestion of doing a regular LGBTQ+ plate collection each June was accepted.

11. Report from Rev. Rachel

a. Working on Fair Share Amendment

b. Continuing on the Juneteenth Committee

c. Rachel planned to attend the Bridgewater Democratic Town Committee meeting meet the candidate’s event at Music Alley on Sat., Aug. 6. She will help staff the Fair Share Amendment information table.

12. Other business

a. We discussed participating in the Interfaith Power and Light Faith Climate Justice Voter Campaign. Since several people are already involved in various voter campaigns, Rev. Rachel will send out a notice about this campaign and invite people to participate.

b. We discussed making a donation to the capital campaign for the Housing Resource Center of Father Bill’s & MainSpring. Since our dedicated volunteers have been donating the lunches, we have money available to donate to this worthy project. It was voted to donate. $500.00.

c. Diane Roza of the One Book One Community Committee is looking for support for the spring (or summer) of 2023 book “You’ll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey” by Amber Ruffin and Lacey Lamar. The committee would like churches to do presentations and back the reading of this book in various ways. Betty will follow up on this with Diane.

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Next meeting will be Thurs., Sept. 1 at 7:00 pm on the new zoom link.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84105829136>