

Attendees: In-person - Terry Starr, Diane Santos, John Durbin, (Bertie Fitch)  
Via Bridges -Max Klinkenborg, Beth Moore, Larry Cornelius, Linda Hofmann,

1. John Durbin offered the opening prayer.
2. Bertie Fitch was welcomed to the meeting.
3. Notes from the July meeting were approved and are available on the website.
4. Subcommittee reports
  - a. Antiracism & Anti Religious-Intolerance - John Durbin
    - The August Palm Leaf had an article outlining the 15 Steps to Increase Awareness of Racial Injustice. Starting in August the Sunday Bulletin will have a statement on Racial Justice three times a month. The other Sunday will have a statement on Love of Creation.
    - There are still spots open to sign up for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Ecumenical/Interreligious Retreat - "In Solidarity - Anti-Racism Training" by Rev. Joan Crawford to be held in Prescott from 9-7-21 through 9-10-21.
  - b. Creation Justice - Terry Starr
    - Terry provided a status report on the mission, goals and action steps of the Creation Justice Work Team
    - Mission Statement: To embody our faith in our relationships with God's creation.
    - Goal #1 To educate and encourage congregational members to take concrete actions that express their stewardship of creation. (The Work Team is planning to offer classes in the Fall on how individual homes can reduce their carbon footprint).
    - Goal #2 To strive for significant reductions in the church's energy and water consumption and waste to offset our carbon footprint. (The Work Team will continue to work with the Board of Trustees to reduce the church's carbon footprint)
    - Goal #3 To advocate for policy change that will slow climate change-and mitigate its impacts. (The Work Team will monitor and distribute when appropriate policy initiatives from the national and local chapters of Interfaith Power and light).
  - c. Homelessness - Max Klinkenborg
    - IHELP Max reported I-HELP guests are now coming to our church at 1:00 on Mondays to be cooled due to stress of summer heat. He also reported that most of our guests are using our Feet N More trailer for showers. He complimented Laurie Cathy, Vickie Ashenbrenner and Nancy Nonini for their volunteer work. Max also reported that he has had two opportunities to be a spokesperson for the I-HELP Program: At the Sun City Rotary Club, and an LSS-SW Fundraising Promotion. Max further reported on how pleased the I-HELP guests are with the Church of the Palms program, quoting one guest as saying, "Your church provides the best food, showers and the nicest volunteers!"
    - Feet N More Max reported that by the addition of Ktizo UCC Church to our monthly shower schedule we are providing showers ten times a month. At the Salvation Army location, we now are providing regular hair cutting services. To date we have provided 207 showers
  - d. Prison Ministry & Criminal Justice Reform - Diane Santos
    - Diane reported on the efforts to assist individuals released from incarceration and the importance of providing spiritual materials as part of their reentry to successful functioning in society. She also mentioned the reentry simulation planned for October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - e. Palestinian Human Rights in Israel - Beth Moore
    - Beth reported that the **Nassar's farm is at severe risk**. It is critical that the re-registration process of the Nassar land be concluded without further delay and that no demolition or eviction orders are issued. Completion of the land re-registration constitutes Israeli authorities' recognition of the Nassar's as the private owners of this land and ends their legal struggle. Your help is needed to exert pressure on Israel to stop issuing demolition and eviction orders and to complete the re-registration of the land. Here is what you can do:

1. Sign this [petition](#), which will be delivered to the U.S. Secretary of State and the U.S. Embassy in Israel. To date 3,000 signatures have been obtained but many more are needed.

2. Contact your senators and representatives. Urge them to ask the State Department to question the Israeli government about the Israeli Military's recent acts of destruction of Nassar property and the delays of the re-registration. Beth did report that over 16 organization are working with Congress and Secretary of State to pressure Israel to assist in this regard.

- Beth also reported that delegates at the General Synod of the United Church of Christ approved a resolution unprecedented in its condemnation of Israel's oppression of the Palestinian people and in its call to action as a matter of faith. In its preamble, the [Declaration for a Just Peace Between Palestine and Israel](#) "pronounces Israel's continued oppression of the Palestinian people a sin, incompatible with the Gospel." The declaration affirms that "we reject any laws and legal procedures which are used by one race or religion or political entity to enshrine one people in a privileged legal position at the expense of another, including Israel's apartheid system of laws and legal procedures."

f. Neighbors in Need - Linda Hofmann

- Linda reported that the Dysart Community Center received very few donations of school supplies for students participating in the after-school program. She will set up a box in the Narthex for donations and provide information for the Sunday bulleting and September Palm Leaf to stimulate interest and support of this program. Linda also reported that adult education programs have resumed and that volunteers are needed.

g. Immigration/Refugee - Larry Cornelius

- Larry reported that the clothing donations are going well and that the refugee intake center seems to have adequate number of volunteers.
- Linda Hofmann reported that she and Kurt are working with LSS to provide birthday gifts to refugees on the anniversary dates of their arrival in the US.

h. LGBTQ – John Durbin

- John reported that he has spoken to new member David Klingensmith about joining the SJAT and assisting in leadership with the LGBTQ programs

5. Other

a. Guidelines for Social Justice Donations – John Durbin

- The following SJAT Fund Distribution Guidelines were approved
  - Provided to individuals (80% of fund balance available for distribution)
    - ✓ Reimbursement costs up to \$500
    - ✓ Stipends & honorariums \$50 to \$100 per hour or per presentation (can be passed along to sponsoring organization)
  - Available to social justice organizations (20% of fund balance available for distribution) \$\$ TBD
  - Reimbursement and/or donation requests will be submitted to the Social Justice Action Team in writing and voted on during a regular or specially called meeting.
- The following project fund distribution fund were approved:
  - Prison Ministry – Requested by Nancy Nonini
    - ✓ ACLU of AZ - \$100
    - ✓ Abolish Private Prisons - \$100
  - Antiracism – Requested by John Durbin
    - ✓ Antiracism Training Ecumenical Retreat \$500

b. September Palm Leaf Article

- Racial Justice – Indigenous People – Nancee Noel
- Prison Ministry - Reentry Simulation Nancy Nonini
- Friends in Need -Dysart Community Center – Linda Hofmann
- Homeless - Feet N More – John Durbin

c. Sunday Bulletins

- Racial Justice & Love of Creation

6. Next meeting date - September 17<sup>th</sup>

7. Adjourn