

Church of the Palms
Social Justice Action Team
September 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Presiding: John Durbin

Notetaker: Suzanne Boisclair

Attendees: John Durbin, David Klingensmith, Eona Schulz, Max Klinkenborg (via Bridges), Nancy Nonini (via Bridges), Larry Cornelius, Linda Hofmann, Beth Moore (via Bridges), Pam Clark (via Bridges), Suzanne Boisclair

1. John Durbin offered the opening prayer.
2. New member Rev. David Klingensmith was welcomed to the group.
3. Notes from the August meeting were approved.
4. Subcommittee reports
 - a. Antiracism & Anti Religious-Intolerance - John Durbin/Rev. David Klingensmith
 - i. David has agreed to lead the subcommittee.
 - ii. David reviewed information from the Ecumenical Retreat held last week in Prescott. He will make available copies of the resource list, a racism scale and a “Zone of Racism” graphic that were provided by Deacon Joan Crawford.
 1. Consider putting these resources in the Bulletin and Palm Leaf for the congregation, and on the SJAT bulletin board.
 2. Deacon Joan will preach here to celebrate Juneteenth in 2022.
 - iii. John will continue to fill out the 15 Action Steps to record the progress we are making (see attached).
 - iv. David and John will work on organizing a group to offer activities and educational programs to the congregation.
 - b. Creation Justice - Beth Moore
 - i. The solar panels have been installed - parts necessary for activation are still on back order.
 - ii. Eona reported that the the Board of Trustees continues to work with Creation Justice on identifying and completing Greening the Church projects.
 1. John Cooper-Lara has resigned from the Board of Trustees but will continue working on the software program for equipment monitoring and maintenance.
 - iii. Plans continue to offer education to the congregation regarding reducing individuals carbon footprint.
 - iv. Creation Justice Sunday is planned for April 24, 2022
 - v. John reported that Rev. Doug Bland had a letter to the editor re environmental issues published today in the Arizona Republic. John will send a note to Rev. Bland acknowledging his efforts.

- c. Homelessness - Max Klinkenborg
 - i. IHELP -
 - 1. Average 8-10 guests participate in the program weekly, with the capacity at 12.
 - 2. 1 pm- 4 pm hours on Mondays continue to be offered and appreciated by our guests to get out of the heat.
 - 3. Showers have been offered to guests with many utilizing the shower trailer on a weekly basis.
 - 4. New monitors have volunteered which has helped considerably with coverage and is much appreciated.
 - 5. Efforts to recruit 2 more congregations to take on Friday and Saturday nights continues.
 - 6. One of our guests acquired housing this week.
 - ii. Feet N More - Max Klinkenborg
 - 1. The 6 month anniversary of the FNM ministry occurred, coinciding with the offering of the 250th shower.
 - 2. A \$5000 grant, written by John Durbin, from the city of Peoria has been finalized and we are able to get reimbursed for expenses retroactive to July 1.
 - a. Vests for volunteers have been ordered using grant funds
 - 3. Upcoming special events
 - a. Vet Link Foundation on October 9 at the Surprise Resource Center from 9 am - 2 pm. We will be among the 60 organizations there to offer services to veterans.
 - b. We will join a congregation in Tolleson to offer showers at their quarterly event to help those dealing with homelessness. Date and place to be determined.
- d. Criminal Justice/Prison Reform - Suzanne Boisclair for Nancy Nonini
 - i. Starter kit items continue to be collected for Arouet. It is expected that 60 women will be released from Perryville in October so the need for items is great.
 - ii. The Re-entry simulation program is scheduled for October 23 from 10 am - 12 pm, followed by a light lunch. Arouet will run the program, but volunteers and participants from COTP and guests are encouraged to attend. Information will be in the upcoming Bulletins and Palm Leaf.
 - iii. Diane Santos met with the founders of New Freedom AZ - a holistic behavioral health program for those reentering the community following incarceration or in recovery. Opportunities for collaboration will continue to be explored. Diane also has been in communication with prison chaplains regarding getting bibles and devotionals to inmates.
 - iv. Advocacy and impacting legislation related to prison reform and criminal justice will be ongoing areas of focus.

- e. Palestinian Human Rights/Tent of Nations - Beth Moore
 - i. Beth provided an update on FOTONNA and the Nassar farm. A petition went to the US State Department with signatures encouraging support for the Farm and opposing its annexation by the Israeli military. A hearing for re-registering the farm is scheduled for December 13. (Daoud's presentations are available on YouTube).
 - ii. The team agreed that continued education, particularly related to the history of the conflict and updates on these issues is valuable. Beth will explore offering an educational program in the Spring with Mark Braverman as a speaker. (Mark's presentations are available on YouTube).
 - iii. Pam Clark reported on a program broadcast on CNN - The History of Jerusalem. (This may be found using the following link: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/18/middleeast/jerusalem-original-series-faith-and-fury-timeline/index.html> or the first episode is available on YouTube)

- f. Neighbors in Need - Linda Hofmann
 - i. There was an excellent response to the recent school supplies drive, with many items and a cash donation delivered to the Center.
 - ii. There continue to be needs for hygiene items, masks and clothing as the Center resumes food distribution on Wednesdays. The Team agreed that the congregation should continue to be informed of needs so they can donate at will.
 - iii. Adult ESL programs are resuming. The per person cost is \$35 for books and \$40 for registration. The Center has initiated a scholarship program, with attendees required to pay \$1 a month to participate. The team agreed to approve a donation of \$300 dollars to provide 4 scholarships (as per the process outlined in the approved meeting minutes from July 16, 2021: *"Requests for funds to be presented to the SJAT in either written or verbal format, to be discussed and voted on."*)
 - iv. Other in person programs are projected to start after the first of the year. Linda will continue to monitor.

- g. Immigration/Refugee - Larry Cornelius
 - i. There continues to be a steady stream of clothing donated which is much appreciated.
 - ii. There are volunteer opportunities available at the Phoenix location. Larry is available to transport if people are interested. The branch in Glendale may become active with refugees from Afghanistan in the coming weeks. Larry will monitor and report back.
 - iii. The team decided to collaborate with Shadow Rock in supporting refugee families.

1. Consider having Karen from Shadow Rock come and speak about needs and how we can best work with them.

- h. LGBTQ - John for Vickie Ashenbrenner
 - i. The Pride Parade is November 6. John will follow up with Vickie and Diane.

5. Other
 - a. October Palm Leaf Article
 - i. Nancy Nonini - Re-entry simulation program
 - ii. David Klingensmith - Antiracism
 - b. Sunday Bulletin
 - i. Social Justice prayers
 - c. Other
 - i. Larry informed the group about news related to crimes against environmentalists
 - ii. Love and prayers offered for Paul and Pam Clark

6. Next meeting date - **October 15 @ 1:00 pm (Note change in date!)**