

TJMC-UU Racial Justice Committee meeting

Dec 2, 2018

Attending: Ann Forno, Linda Dukes, Frank Dukes, Bob Gross, Dinny Jensen, Kit McNally, Joel McNally, Cathey Polly, Sharon Utz, Sherri Edgecomb, Elizabeth Ide

Cards going around for Star Peterson, Don Gathers, Elizabeth Breeden,
Opening: James Baldwin quote read by Frank.

Did introductions.

1. Sara-tree topper TJMC. White topper will probably be placed on the Christmas tree. Wants to avoid that. Recommends the RJC make statement that "The RJC requests that the church make sure African American images be displayed in our church. Specifically that the Holiday tree have a black or brown skinned Angel on the top." Sherri asks if tradition of African American on tree decoration. Members will consider that but since the top of the tree is such a focus and a dark skinned angel is available we'll go ahead with the request. Ann will email the staff.

2. Celebrations-each shared something new.:

Bob discovered website : Sceneonradio.com.

Sharon: Charlottesville High School won an award by working with Nashville. First Nashville group came to sing for Cville high school as a way to support Cville, then Cville went to _____ to support them.

Edith: encouraged by meeting Housing Authority had with the city to get money from the city, art of Shirley Paul and Sara Gondwe was on display at City Space.

Topics

Housing: IMPACT is encouraged by the wide enthusiasm will share summary of IMPACT. Dave Mathews band 5 million for housing.

Religious Education: for children next round will be first 3 weeks in Jan. Course called "Seeing with new eyes" was cancelled. August Wilson Play reading group has been cancelled the last few times because of decreased attendance.

Letter to Board from RJC was sent after last meeting in response to racist letter sent to Christina at the General Assembly

Tabling: discussion as to its effectiveness. Kate said not many people come to the table and it's a lot of work to put it together. Will move contents to bulletin board and leave materials for pick up. Will find lights to draw attention. Need to advertise tabling on facebook and in weekly email. It's good for new people. No table in Dec because another racial justice event after second service. Share three article set for newcomers at the newcomers' meeting in Jan. Kate will provide to Sally Taylor. Focus of tabling in Jan will be the General Assembly.

UCARE: A University program-- University and Community Action for Racial Equity. Sign up with Frank Dukes to get the emails regularly. Sent letter to Chief of Police to do 5 things to make community better. Third meeting of planning meeting of "Truth Commission". Looking at Central Virginia History. County created Office of Equity and Inclusion with regular appropriation. Petition to remove Johnny Reb Statue is

on web site. Albemarle County is including in General Assembly request. Hate Free Schools is powerful influence.

Linda doing neighborhood education program based on "Seeing with New Eyes" and will become an ongoing group. A member of that group, Holly Heilberg is planning party for families of incarcerated persons at the jail. She needs some help. Let Linda know if you are willing to help.

Black Lives Matter - Abolish the police. Was a presentation at SURJ in Oct. Committee to consider action if any.

Kate reported on her connections for criminal justice reform with the People's Coalition and the Civilian Review Board.

Kit reported on her new Chairwomanship of the LWV Justice Reform Committee. Will focus on Women's issues in criminal Justice system.

Ann reported on planned "Racial Justice Conversation" on Dec 16. Board initiated event. What does the congregation want racial justice work to look like. Joint effort of board and RJC. Ann doing agenda for planning meeting.

- Sharon- maybe show video from UUA general assembly of President talking about racial justice. High priority for UUA; our church not connected to UUA. Action connected to faith. Sermon title was "This is no time for a casual faith".
- Kit: need to be clear about what is going to happen at the meeting. Needs to be inclusive and well attended.
- Dinny: put emphasis on the faith component of church.
- Linda: Cynical about the date. People won't come. Board decided date. Not much advance notice.
- Dinny will do sandwich board.
- Cathey: how to include the folks that feel they've been called white supremacists? Still lots of hard feelings about that. Lots of conversation needed. Staff shouldn't attend.
- Kit asked what came out of Paula Cole Jones' two day visit? Ann will ask the Board.
- Linda: concern that such a potentially difficult conversation should be facilitated.
- Kate and Dinny: Importance for RJC is to listen to what people have to say, not provide a history or education.
- Frank: Could Rob Craighurst of Angels be asked to facilitate. It will be hard for us to listen.
- We should provide food: volunteers Sharon, Kit, Cathey, Edith, Ann.
- Dinny talked about the NYT article; please add Education as topic for our committee.

Next meeting: January 6; main agenda item will be about the Dec 16 meeting.