

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church
SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MINUTES
April 5th, 2018

Present: Carol Frechette, Nancy Kachel,, Mary Jones, Paul Schalekamp, Marsha Pridgeon, Bob Heise, Christy Thorson, Allen Frechette

Absent: Amanda Fineran Ron Dubis, Amy Zsohar, Doodee Backstrom, Frank Bliss

Carol opened the meeting with prayer at 6:03 PM followed by sharing joys and concerns. Carol expressed her sympathy for the loss of former member Janet Pine. Several members commented on the wonderful Easter Sunday service.

The March minutes were approved by motion.

Discussion on the Focus Issues: The three focus issues for the year are Church Sanctuary Support, Move to Amend and gun violence. Marsha reported that on April 14th, the First Universalist Church in Minneapolis has a program on Sanctuary. She and Frank Bliss plan to attend and will report back.

Carol reported that Pastor Bill sent her a website that has a good document for churches on how to address gun violence. Carol recalled that we had a facilitated discussion on gun violence and suggested we could consider doing this again. Al said he would research the issue of gun violence on the PC(USA) website to see what positions they have taken.

Al explained our past actions on the Move to Amend movement noting that both Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, and the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area have been listed as supporting organizations. He said we still needed to decide how we might reach out to other congregations to get their involvement in this effort. Al explained that in order to achieve any of our social justice goals that require legislative action we must first address the corrupt campaign finance system driven by self-serving interests of wealthy individuals and corporations.

Nancy reported on JRLC. She noted that this year's topics included homelessness and child care. Nancy also reported on a program she learned about in St. Louis called "The Amen Project" and that there would be more mentioned about it on Sunday.

Carol said she would investigate the "little homes" project in St. Paul and report back at a future meeting.

Marsha reported on the resource speaker – Alica. Marsha said she was well received. Marsha noted that Jermaine had started the 21st Century Academy school program. Marsha read a letter from Alike describing this project. Marsha will arrange to post this letter on our committee's web page. Marsha also heard from Stephanie Gill who had been out of town, but was interested in speaking about the Sanctuary movement at some future date. Marsha said she would investigate finding a Faith Formation date for Stephanie to speak.

Marsha said she would call Beth to see when we could schedule working on homeless bags again. Needs include sanitary supplies for women. Nancy said she would check with Oasis on this. Marsha will update the list of items needed and it will be given to Amanda to post on our web page.

Mary reported that her nine-year-old granddaughter participated in the March Against Gun Violence and Bob said his grandchildren had also. Al and Carol said they would research and draft a resolution for our committee's consideration supporting effective legislation to address gun violence.

Mary reported that our committee sent a check for \$100 to the Church of the Apostles for the Justice Choir event and that Missions gave \$1,000. Unfortunately, none of the committee members had been able to attend.

Paul provided information on Pay Day lending and materials provided by Sara Nelson Pallmeyer – [Exodus Lending programs](#). Paul said he would follow up with Sara and provide more information at our next meeting.

There was a question about how much we have for our 2018 approved budget. This will be researched.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Allen Frechette, Secretary

Social Justice Committee Agenda

May 3, 2018
6:00 PM

- A. Beginning Prayer
- B. Joys & Concerns
- D. Weekly Bulletin & Screen update — Bob
- E. Social Justice Committee Web Page update—Amanda
- F. Homeless bags - Marsha
- J. Discussion on Sanctuary Support
- K. Discussion of draft resolution supporting legislative action to address gun violence
- L. Next step on Move to Amend to solicit support from other congregations.