

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
MINUTES for May 2, 2019

Present: Nancy Kachel, Susan Thomforde, Paul Schalekamp, Bob Ritter, Pamara Ritter, Mary Bowen-Eggebraaten, Doodee Backstrom, Emilie Christy, Ron Dubis, Allen Frechette

Absent: Carol Frechette, Marsha Pridgeon, Mary Jones, Lily Dodge, Frank Bliss, Anne Ritterspach

Carol being absent due to illness, Al asked for a volunteer to chair the meeting. Nancy Kachel volunteered and opened the meeting with joys and concerns followed by a devotion.

Mary Bowen-Eggebraaten reported that she had given the video Chosen, to Mary Koon who will review the video and share it with parents and students. Mary Koon will decide when and if to schedule a time to view it at church. If you subscribe to Netflix, please watch the video.

The minutes from the April meeting had already been approved by email.

The committee opened discussion on possible options for supporting social justice programs and projects:

- Pamara distributed information about Allan Law's sandwich ministry in Minneapolis.
- Paul suggested we support Sara Nelson Pallmeyer's Exodus Lending program.
- Ron Dubis suggested we support the Southern Poverty Law Center.
- Al suggested we continue to support the 21st Century Academy program started by Pastor Germain.
- Al read a letter we had received from Jubilee USA and explained what they do.
- Nancy also added Sanctuary Support, which we have been considering, but haven't made any decisions about yet.

Mary suggested we each do some research on these options to see how much of their budget is used for administration. Al said he would develop a list in our minutes with links to each organization so we could be better informed for our June meeting. Al explained that he puts hyperlinks to websites in the minutes that appear as blue underlined text that you can click on to open the connected website. He also explained that he sends the minutes and other documents in two formats: **.doc** which will open in Microsoft Windows systems and **.pdf**, which will open in all operating systems.

Nancy reported that one of our committee members, Frank Bliss was traveling to Annunciation House in El Paso Texas to help with their program ministering to migrants seeking to enter the U.S. There was a motion and second to donate \$500.00 to support Frank in this ministry. Ron called Frank to get details and gave more details to the committee. The motion was discussed and passed. Al said he would take care of requesting a check and drafting a letter to accompany it and would copy members.

Sanctuary Support wasn't discussed, as Marsha was absent, so this will be on the June agenda.

Al provided an update on the legislation that our committee has been following.

Al reported that he had received an email from Pastor Bill asking that we procure another “Black Lives Matter” sign for our church. Paul reported that the sign had been taken down and will follow-up on this with Bill.

There was a brief discussion about the LGBTQ+ protesters last Sunday at the first service.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Allen Frechette, Secretary

Social Justice Committee DRAFT Agenda

June 6, 2019

6:00 PM

1. Joys & Concerns
2. Beginning Prayer
3. Homeless bags update - Marsha
4. Social Justice Committee Web Page update - Al
5. Update on legislation we're following - Al
6. Discussion on use of committee's available funding for this year. The following programs have been suggested:
 - [Allan Law's sandwich ministry in Minneapolis.](#)
 - [Exodus Lending program.](#)
 - Southern Poverty Law Center.
 - 21st Century Academy.
 - [Jubilee USA.](#)
 - Sanctuary Support,