

## Social Justice Meeting

May 11, 2020

The Zoom meeting was called to order by chair, Tony Giordano. Others on the meeting were: Judy Stevens, Anne and Joe Houle, Jerry Moran, Aimee Van Duyne, Mya Nestor-Watts, Nicole Schultz and Irene Gibson.

April minutes were approved as sent out via email.

Discussion of how to vote for Share the Plate recipients given that the annual meeting in June will be via Zoom. Possibility of using Constant Contact. Irene will discuss with Maggi, Virginia and Craig.

Since the Bayshore Lunch Program in Keyport is closed, we are no longer going there to prepare and serve meals. At that same location, there is a food pantry where people can come to get bags of groceries, run by the Keyport Ministerium. We had previously budgeted \$100/month for the Lunch Program. It was moved and seconded that we send \$50/month for May and June, and review at the June SJ meeting.

Discussion re: taking down outdated material from the SJ newsletter. The Spot Light for this month will feature Aimee Van Duyne highlighting her social justice work. She will send Nicole a write up about her involvement.

Joe is stepping down as liaison with UUFA effective in mid-June. We need to find someone to fill that position. Thanks to Joe for keeping us apprised of UU Faith Action's many programs.

Aimee presented information about Rev. Charles Boyer and his Salvation and Social Justice work. He is very active in getting prisoners released during this corona virus pandemic.

On Thursday 5/21 there will be a drive-by protest just before Gov. Murphy's press conference.

Anne reported on the Re-entry commission headed by former governor, McGreevy. Looking for ways to get gift cards and phone cards to prisoners; ways to get the congregation involved.

Thurs. 5/14, 10 am. Virtual Town Hall. Testimony from family members of prisoners in NJ.

5/28 - Car Caravan "Say Their Names" at War Memorial, Trenton 11 - 1:00.

One month ago 1100 prisoners were suggested for release. To date only 85 have been released. 38 have died.

Nicole is working with the Reproductive Freedom Act which protects Rowe v. Wade.

Mya stated that FA Gun Violence Prevention chair is stepping down. Looking for replacement. People asked to wear orange on June 6 in solidarity with those looking to decrease gun violence. Since early March, with the onset of the corona virus isolation, gun sales have increased, as has domestic violence. Other violence has decreased.

Gerry has been writing to legislators with his concern about the dumping of milk and the plowing under of crops, when farmers have no market for their products. So far, no response.

Tony suggested also writing letters to editors.

Judy reported that at the 5/9 Zoom auction, one of SJ's baskets sold for \$95; the other for \$185.

Irene reported that Casa Freehold received a check for \$588 as our share the plate recipient for April; hand delivered by Monica Botone. Parker Family Health Center is the recipient for May; for June, Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought.

Tony and his Corruption of Democracy continue to work on UU the Vote; suggests contacting Gov. Murphy in support of voting by mail. Webinar 7 pm - UU the Vote.

Next SJ meeting via Zoom June 15 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Irene Gibson, recorder