

Social Justice Meeting  
Monday, March 15, 2021

The meeting was called to order via zoom by chair Tony Giordano. Others present were: Joe & Anne Houle, Mya Nester, Nicole Schultz, Ann Sherwood, Judy Stevens, Catherine Eckert, Vanessa Mehri, Aimee Van Duyne and Irene Gibson.

Minutes of February meeting approved as sent out via email.

The congregation voted on accepting the 8th Principal on Sunday, 3/14. Motion to accept passed with 93% of those voting!! Thank you, 8th Principal Committee!

Now we need to publicize this accomplishment. Tony will contact Amy Grossman, Publicity Chair and Rick Goldberg, Denominational Affairs Chair re: this.

The UUFA Gala was a big success, with ~175 tickets sold. Donations: \$19,000. Judy bought the basket that was donated by UUCMC. Joe stated that a video of all the task force talks (at the Gala) will soon be available.

Judy suggested two we donate 2 baskets of anti-racist books for kids to the UUCMC auction: one for kids under 8; one for those 8+; and/or gift certificates from a black-owned book store. Source of Knowledge, in Newark and Uncle Bobbie's Coffee and Book in Philadelphia in Philadelphia are two. Others can be found online.

New Jersey Together is a coalition of churches and other non-profits. UUCMC is part of the one just starting up in Monmouth County. Other suggested invitees: Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought, Casa Freehold, and Lunch Break. Issues to be dealt with - housing, food security, mental health, helping the underserved.

**Champion Reports:**

Mya reported that the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force has been involved in helping with the NJ Red Flag laws (police can remove guns from those deemed dangerous to themselves or others), Be Smart (to reduce child gun deaths). And City Gun Violence. In April Moms Demand Action will present info on what bills to help sponsor. In June, Advocacy Day - chance to speak with legislators.

Anne, co-chair of the Criminal Justice Reform stated that this FA task force is working on reparations in NJ, and a bill to abolish slavery. (ACR145 and SCR96).

Also, People in prison or on parole can get stimulus checks.

Nicole reported that the Reproductive Justice task force continues to work on impeachment for Marcus Hicks, Corrections Commissioner, related to sexual abuse in the Edna Mahan Women's Correctional Facility.

Aimee stated that the next Voices of Black Experience will be on 3/28.

Vanessa stated that this year's October Crop Walk will again be virtual.

Judy reported on FA Environmental Justice task force. Company wanting to put sludge plant in Ironbound section of Newark is trying to get an application in under the wire before this usage is banned.

On 3/18, Paula Cole Jones will present a program via zoom, through UU Ministry for Earth. [CreateClimateJustice.org](https://www.createclimatejustice.org).

Irene reported that the Parker Family Health Center received a check for \$568 as our Share the Plate recipient for January. For February, UU FaithAction NJ, the amount received was \$537 through offerings. The UUCMC budget allows for \$2,400 to UUFA; therefore \$333 additional will come from our SJ budget. (We have pledged \$10 for each of our 327 members). The recipient for March is Lunch Break, Red Bank; for April, NJ Environmental Alliance.

Tony reported that the Corruption of Democracy Committee is working on action related to voter suppression. On 4/11 LWV will have a program on voter suppression.

Next SJ meeting - Monday, April 12, 7:00 via zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Gibson, recorder.