

Social Justice Committee Meeting

November 8, 2021

Meeting was called to order by co-chair, Vanessa Merhi. Others present were co-chair Ann Sherwood, Anne Houle, Pat and Steve Miller, Judy Stevens, Patricia Brennan, Tony Giordano, Sarah Klepner and Irene Gibson.

Minutes of October approved as sent out via email.

Judy stated that this Wed., 11/10, there will be a rally in Ironbound section of Newark; “March for Clean Air: Stop Dumping on Newark”, at 3:30; meeting at 226 Rome St.

Judy also reported on a plan proposed by State Senator Sweeney to create a trust using water assets as collateral to benefit pension funds. A lot of push back re: this.

Anne H.: **UUFA Criminal Justice** committee: The Re-entry bill has too many amendments; not really providing services. Gov. Murphy to veto Body-cam bill.

Share the Plate: Covenant House in Asbury Park received a check for \$580.50 as the Share the Plate recipient for September.

UUFA Reproductive Freedom: report from Nicole Schultz who was unable to attend. The current Reproductive Freedom Act gives abortion rights but no access to reproductive care. Nicole will keep us apprised of any changes.

Jubilee Update - Ann S. Reported that the 3-day Jubilee program will begin this Friday, 11/12. More than 40 people have signed up, but few from UUCMC.

Reparations Task Force: Sarah will attend the 11/9 meeting at 6:00. Next Reparations Common Read - “The Social Life of DNA” by Alonda Nelson.

Ann S.: will suggest doing away with the bill that allows slavery (SCR96) as a Dialog topic.

NJ Together: Tony reported that his team has committed to doing 90 listening interviews; have done 30. Could use extra help. Patricia offered to help with interviews. Also suggested - more use of the on-line survey.

Climate Action: Pat and Steve Miller, Nov. 18, 7:00 via zoom; program on “Off Shore Wind”. 11/15 at 7 pm: Program on defeating the Penn-East Pipeline (which took 7 years).

11/21: Asking people to view “The Condor and the Eagle” about 4 groups of environmentally active indigenous people; then attend discussion

12/16: Webinar on electrifying building stock in NJ; promoting heat pumps; moving from gas to electricity.

Mitten Tree: Patricia Brennan will bring back the Mitten Tree program after Thanksgiving. 180 Turning Lives Around and Family Promise were suggested as recipients of the gifts and gift cards. Open to other suggestions. Ann S. will help Patricia put up the tree, which will probably be in the front hall.

8th Principle Project: Asking each committee to identify how they are incorporating the 8th Principle.

Sarah shared a letter she had written to several ministers with the idea to address polarization in our society through Public Service announcements and other media sources. More discussion on this at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54. Next SJ meeting Monday, Dec. 13 at 7:00 via zoom.

Irene Gibson, recorder.