

Advocates for Justice  
October 17, 2017  
Minutes

Attending the meeting: Sharon Stonecipher, Martha DiCicco, Terry McIntosh, Roger Williams, Helen Goody, Marlene Thurman, Sue Mullens, Rev. Jeremiah Harris, Herb and Louise Crede, Larry and Kay Jones.

Kay read a quote from Stephen Mattson in “Kissing Fish” for the opening:

Instead of saying all lives matter, Jesus said, “Samaritan lives matter.”  
Instead of saying all lives matter, Jesus said, “Children’s lives matter.”  
Instead of saying all lives matter, Jesus said, “Gentile lives matter.”  
Instead of saying all lives matter, Jesus said, “Jewish lives matter.”  
Instead of saying all lives matter, Jesus said, “Women’s lives matter.”  
Instead of saying all lives matter, Jesus said, “Leper’s lives matter.”

Even though Jesus loved everyone, even to the point of dying for their sins, he went out of his way to intentionally help specific groups of people—the alienated, mistreated, and those facing injustice. So, saying “Black Lives Matter” is one of the most Christ-like things we can do.

Old Business:

The Welcoming Statement meeting on October 28, 8:45-noon.

Kay will arrive at 7:45 to make coffee.

Karin will bring breakfast burritos.

Louise will bring melon, Helen will bring bananas, Martha will bring apple slices.

Terry and Sharon will bring cookies

Marlene will bring sweet bread.

We will come on Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m. to set up the classrooms to be used for the small groups.

16 people have signed up at the Ask Me Desk so far.

Kay will email Patty to change the title of the explanatory paragraph to Welcoming Statement—Next Step.

We will ask Steve to mention it in his weekly email.

Larry reported that Tacos for Texas, Frijoles for Florida earned over \$3300 for hurricane relief to be given to the Community Foundation to be eligible for matching funds from the Bohemian Society. Leftover food was donated to The Front Porch Ministry to feed the homeless.

It was suggested that we have banners made to put on the church corner to advertise our speakers as we have our Beloved Community speaker programs. Helen also told us that by going through the city website we can have banners hung across the roads free (like HWY 34 and/or Lincoln Ave.)

To get information onto the Facebook page for the church, send it to Helen.

Sharon will arrange to have a speaker on climate change come at his convenience after the New Year. Helen can have a speaker on trafficking come either before or after Sharon’s speaker.

Rev. Jeremiah reported that at the Clergy Academy retreat he attended that they were given a report by the Commission on the Way Forward. They are proposing that the structure of the UMC will definitely be different than it is now. One idea is to redraw jurisdictional boundaries on theology rather than on geography. The

Commission on the Way Forward website is viewable through the UMC.org website. He said that one speaker, Elaine Heath, from Duke Divinity, spoke of a mission shaped identity.

The author who “found herself after leaving Focus on the Family” is Amber Cantorna and her book is called, “Refocusing my Family”. It details her experience, the war within herself, the hurt of losing her family and the path toward rediscovery. She says, “Despite losing so many loved ones, she is happier these days as an out Christian and the founder of Beyond, a non-profit that helps LGBT people navigate the coming-out process.”

Rev. Jeremiah prayed as the closing of our meeting.