

**Social Justice Council Monthly Meeting
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 5, 2009
7:30 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.**

Present: Nancy Derr, Betsy Devlin-Foltz, Marge Dimond, Pam Gehrke, Karen Goozner, Nancy Janssen, Heather Janules, Connie Nissley, Annette Scarpitta, Kay [Cay] Scott, Sandy Shaw, Becky White (Helen and Michael were attending the AIM prep meeting)

Proceedings

Betsy called the meeting to order at 7:30. We enjoyed a reading by Heather.

Appreciation: Betsy asked folks to report on any new or renewed efforts for social justice at Cedar Lane and talk about how the SJC can support these and encourage other efforts. A number of projects were mentioned including:

- o Nancy J. mentioned a suggestion that ministers try to include "SJ moments" (including names of CL'ers who are involved during their sermons.
- o Sandy updated the council on the activities of the Poverty Breakout Group.
- o Marge noted that new people were showing interest in LGBT activities, asking for information or asking to come to meetings. An upcoming key activity is the Youth Summit, to be held April 18 at Cedar Lane. It will be an all-day event with a dinner and dance following. They are looking for volunteers to help out, so anyone who is interested should call her. The next planning meeting is coming up on March 17 from 6 to 7:30, room 1-2.
- o Nancy J also mentioned the upcoming AIM meeting (March 10); carpools will be leaving CL at 6:15 for Burtonsville. It is a **very critical** meeting with the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors. The topic is the budget. Cedar Lane needs to be well represented so please join the group. Target CL participation is 60 people, we are only at 30. AIM target is 600.

Communications:

- o Betsy asked all group leaders to fill out the voluntary survey on 2008/2009 activities and 2009/2010 budget "hopes" and get this information to Betsy/Sandy and copy Helen and Connie Nissley by March 15. Helen will be pulling together the SJC portion for the annual report, which needs to go the BOT in early April in preparation for the Annual Meeting on April 19.
- o Karen reported on her experience with someone who would probably not attend Cedar Lane and suggested that we think about doing some outreach with evangelical congregations.
- o Karen also described her exciting ideas about establishing a SJC virtual bulletin board, which could be projected on the wall behind the coffee servers in the lounge. Next step: get Sara Deschler's input.
- o Nancy J. reported that the lounge lizards could really use a little more lounge space; various ideas were discussed and will be explored further.
- o Betsy circulated the new flier describing SJ activities under way at CL. The flier will be handed out on Sundays in the lounge. On the back side are some suggestions about how to get support from the SJC. The flier will also be included as an insert in the next newsletter, and Betsy has been updating the CL Web page.

Nominations: Nancy J. reported that Michael, Karen, and Annette have volunteered to step aside so that the SJC can reestablish the SJC structure laid out in the SJC charter (create 3 classes of 4 people with 4 people rotating off each year). Annette will continue her role as leader of the International Concerns Coalition and her involvement, as possible, on SJC issues of global concern. Karen noted that her offer to serve as non-voting member would be contingent on the ability to identify four new members.

Betsy, Sandy, Helen, and Nancy J. volunteered to serve as the nominating committee. Nominations must be made in time for confirmation at the April 19 Annual Meeting. Anyone interested in joining the SJC should contact Nancy J. The nominating committee is especially interested in hearing from enthusiastic participants from the SJ Empowerment workshop.

Finances: Connie updated the SJC on the financial standing of the council. Remaining financial commitments (e.g., to AIM and UUSJ) will be made. There are some remaining reimbursements to be made from the Empowerment workshop. There are 500 undesignated dollars. A vote was taken and unanimous decision reached to donate \$200 to the LBGT Youth Summit to support the cost of food.

International Concerns Coalition (previously the Global Task Force): Annette updated the council on the funds raised through the Alternative Giving Program (\$3,656) and the Afghan Dinner (\$10,130!!). Also of note was Don Cleary's project to support the victims of Chernobyl. The SJC voted its strong support for this project as well as a large meeting that will be taking place in the area (in part at Cedar Lane) from September 19 through the 27. Details on this effort will be forthcoming.

Rebuilding Together: Heather reported on the trip to New Orleans, which was a grand success and very excellent experience. The next trip down is planned for January 31 to February 6, 2010. The goal is to double attendance. A local effort at Rebuilding Together will also be taking place on the last Saturday in April (Apr 25) (more details to come). Heather also said she would be highlighting her experiences in her May 3 sermon.

Auction: the SJC contribution to the Auction this year will be an Ice Cream Social Sing Along. It is scheduled for March 27, from 7 to 9:30, in the Chalice House. For a small entrance fee, participants will be able to enjoy a variety of ice creams and toppings while joining the singing fun. Pam has volunteered to take the lead. Volunteers are needed.

The next meeting of the SJC is Thursday, April 2, when particular attention will be paid to next year's SJC budget request

Betsy adjourned the meeting at 9:45.

Submitted by, Nancy Derr