

Minutes
Cedar Lane Social Justice Council Meeting
Thursday, June 5, 2008

Present: Nancy Janssen, Mike Benefiel, Becky White, Karen Goozner, Connie Nissley, Helen Strang, Karen Lerner, Annette Scarpitta, Pat Karlsen, Kay Scott, Betsy Devlin-Foltz, Noah Rosen, and Jonas Rosen (briefly).

Social Justice Empowerment Workshop

With support from the board, SJC is moving forward with planning for a Social Justice Empowerment workshop. This process, designed and facilitated by experienced facilitators from the UUA, is made available to UU Congregations to help examine and invigorate social justice. Helen Strang shared her recommendations for how to collect information for the assessment we need to submit to the UUA 90 days before the workshop. We have requested a January date.

Helen offered to write a draft based on the information gathered with the goal of sharing it with the congregation by Oct 1 to get feedback. She recommended that we task out some pieces of the assessment and invite broader congregational input on others and suggested the following time line:

15 June--send e-mails to those identified to answer specific parts of form and ask for them to let Helen know by July 1 if they could do so.

June 22—announcement in the Order of Service

June 24—announcement in the newsletter

Fall—publicize through invitations in newsletter, order of service, listservs, website, and the pulpit.

Helen highlighted areas of the assessment for which wide congregational input would be important:

- Role of the congregation
- Types of involvement—activities that Cedar Laners are involved in as volunteers or in their professional capacities, including ways they have given public witness.
- Publicity—What type of image does your social justice program have in the church?
- Major conflicts
- Painful episodes

Nancy Janssen agreed to share a copy of the summer preaching schedule so that visiting ministers, such as Rev. Terry Ellen, Rev. Ken McClain can be asked to speak to the workshop's importance.

There was interest in sharing a history of Cedar Lane's involvement in social justice issues.

A motion was adopted to accept the timeline and steps Helen outlined. Members of of SJC were invited to send input or comments on any items of the assessment by September 1. Early submissions welcome.

Financial Report

Connie Nissley reported that a check would be sent to the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless per the budget.

There was a question about whether the Day of Service \$500 was completely used. There is currently a balance of \$526 but expenses for the rest of June could be about \$340.

A motion to put the money remaining in the budget at the end of the fiscal year (June) into the SJ endowment carried by majority.

Other Business

There was a brief discussion about how SJC might guide the congregation to respond to the need for humanitarian relief generated by Cyclone Nargis and the earthquake in China, but without time to adequately explore the options, a decision was postponed until a future meeting.

Celina Gutierrez, who is the recipient of the Maurer (did I get this right??) Scholarship will be invited to attend a service at Cedar Lane when she can be properly celebrated, likely after the summer.

The council agreed to discuss the 50/50 plate sharing at the next meeting to make recommendations to the board on whether and how to continue.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Devlin-Foltz
SJC Secretary