

Social Justice Council Minutes, March 4, 2010

Present: Michael Benefiel, Michael Burski, Betsy Devlin-Foltz, Nancy Janssen, Pat Karlsen, Connie Nissley, Sandy Shaw, Helen Strang, Ann Suydam, Anne Thompson, Rebecca White, Heather Janules-Clergy Liaison, and Val Carter- BOT Liaison.

Absent: Kay Scott (ill) and Kay Gottesman (out-of-town).

A general check-in and a reading of the Covenant followed the Chalice lighting.

Treasurer's report. Discussion of the Council's proposed 2010-2011 budget was moved to the next meeting. The Endowment Committee has recommended moving the SJC money that is currently in the Investment Pool to the Gift Fund Operating Fund. Members voted to authorize the Endowment Committee to make that shift.

Rebuilding in New Orleans. Mike Burski discussed the experience of the Cedar Lane group that went to New Orleans to participate in rehabilitating houses damaged by Hurricane Katrina—and were waylaid there by a major snow storm that affected northbound air travel. The group reported positively on their experience, especially on the satisfaction that sprang from the camaraderie with other participants and the feeling of manual accomplishment while doing something for people who needed who needed help. The welcoming atmosphere and attitude of the New Orleans Unitarian Church and the guided tour of the city that showed the magnitude of the effort yet needed contributed to the group's positive feeling. The general good feeling in New Orleans (Mardi Gras and the Super Bowl victory of the Saints) made their enforced extra stay memorable.

Rebuilding in Montgomery County. Mike Burski is organizing a Cedar Lane group to work on April 24 on the house of an elderly, low-income family in Bethesda, repainting the kitchen, installing railings and grab bars in the bathroom, and yard work. The group needs to raise \$1000.00 to accomplish this work. \$450.00 is available from the SJC budget; additional funds will be raised through a 50-50 split of a Sunday collection.

UUSC program. Pat Karlsen has information on how to sign up for the UUSC online training for anyone interested in helping eligible Haitians apply for Temporary Protective Status.

Request for scholarship support. A former active CLUUC member, now living part of the year in Mexico and attending the San Miguel UU Fellowship, has written to ask if Cedar Lane could offer support to a scholarship program to which the San Miguel Fellowship contributes. The group was sympathetic to the request but decided we could not undertake to support a scholarship in addition to the church's commitment to scholarships for students in our Partner Church in Romania.

SJC Auction item. The winning bidder would choose the recipient of a future 50-50 collection split.

Items for April Agenda. Local scholarship funding situation; UUSJ fundraising;
CLARITY.

Helen Strang, Secretary pro-tem