

USH Social Justice Council Meeting

Minutes, December 19, 2023

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Reminder: Meetings are the third Tuesday of each month from 7PM to 8:30 PM

Attendees: Judy Sullivan, chair, Joanne Orlando, Louise Harmon, Sherry Manetta, Fred Louis, Gloria Bent, Dana Donovan, Gloria Francesca Mengual, Diana Heymann, Susan Hope, Mary Sherwin, Anne Ferketic. Jim Venneman joined to propose the Brother Carl Hardrick Institute for the March GNO.

Judy called the meeting to order, gave the reading and we did check-ins. Minutes of the prior meeting had been approved via email.

Accessibility

A report on accessibility at the Meeting House has been issued based on a review or “audit”. Mobility issues are most commonly addressed, but we should also address attitudes about disabilities as well as address disabilities that are not readily identifiable. The report has been sent to B&G for comment.

GHIAA

Judy advised the Council of Corey Mackey’s health status. A go-fund-me was started by Anne Stanback to raise \$25,000 to help support Corey’s medical expenses.

Upcoming GHIAA trainings were discussed, also white fragility and difficulty of asking for help, and self-reflection needed. Everyone is encouraged to sign up for trainings. Joanne will be attending the Core training.

Sue Smolski has suggested that the congregation wants to hear more about GHIAA and 3/24 is a date for a GHIAA service. Discussed the possibility of a guest speaker, e.g., Rev Jocelyn who is an ordained UCC minister and GHIAA member. Anyone who wants to participate in the service, help select music and readings, etc. should contact Judy.

Upcoming GNOs

- Jan - Operation Fuel – needs are expected to be high this winter – representatives will present at the 1/14 service
- Feb - IREJN (Interreligious Eco-Justice Network) – (may want to switch months)
- Mar – The Village for Families and Children
- April – Brother Carl Hardrick Institute

Jim Vennemann joined to suggest the Brother Carl Hardrick Institute for Violence Prevention as a GNO, which was agreed to by the Council. The Institute is focused on the prevention of gun and community violence and provides training and other interventions to achieve that end. The Institute originated in the North End of Hartford.

Diana recommended Chrysalis, as a mental health-focused organization, would be an appropriate GNO. Diana and Fred will follow up.

GNO presentations will typically be on the second Sunday of each month.

Anti-Racism Programming/Podcasts and Discussions

Seven racial justice discussions have been scheduled over several months beginning January 18 from 7 to 8:30PM. For each session, participants will be asked to listen to a podcast in advance and to then attend a discussion online led by Gloria. The program is based on a podcast series which in turn is based on a book by Heather McGhee entitled *The Sum of Us*. More information on the podcasts is here <https://open.spotify.com/show/19VMtc487rqmrb6GC8eRvd>

Registration for each discussion is here ushsocialjustice@gmail.com and will be announced in advance in the enews. Spotify must be downloaded to listen to the podcasts.

Other Matters/Announcements

The Horace Bushnell Toy Drive is underway for the Christmas season. The coat drive and food drive will continue. More regular food donations are needed for the Horace Bushnell Food Pantry.

Adjournment

Judy adjourned the meeting.