

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Social Justice & Action (SJA)**  
**Sunday, January 21, 2018**

**Attendees:** Gloria Betts, Sarah Engle, Jerry Hartman, Melissa Herman, Paul Leistra, Nancy Lohman, Cindy Saunders, Dick Staufenberger. Rebecca Unruh participated by phone.

1. **Opening Prayer and Introductions:** Nancy gave an opening prayer.
2. **Approval of the December Minutes:** The December minutes were previously approved by email.
3. **Treasurer's update:** Dick reported that we collected approximately \$24,000 during the Christmas offering and that we do not have final numbers as some contributions are still coming in. This is comparable to the amount raised last Christmas. Jerry described the McDowell Foundation stipend to new members.
4. **Grant process and liaisons:** Dick and Nancy provided an overview of the grant process, and described how we have chosen recipients in the past. A new member asked if there was a reason for granting relatively small amounts to 16 organizations; we discussed some of the factors leading to that development, including that in 2016 we were able to fully fund everyone who applied. We will continue discussing the best allocation of resources during the grant application review process. Rebecca indicated that outgoing Chair Caryn Musil will be providing the board with a timeline for the grant process, including when liaisons need to visit and report back on their assigned organizations. The members agreed amongst themselves on the following liaisons to grantee organizations: **[Nancy: As the Chair, you should not have to handle 3 organizations when others only have 1. Perhaps give 1 or 2 of yours to Jerry, Melissa, or Sarah.]**
  - **Nancy:** Mobile Med, Shaw Community Center, Briggs Center
  - **Dick:** AIM, Calvary Women's Center
  - **Melissa:** OAR
  - **Cindy:** A Wider Circle, Bethesda Cares
  - **Sarah:** Pregnancy Aid
  - **Jerry:** Jubilee Jobs
  - **Gloria:** Samaritan Ministries, CAIR [Will help Nancy with Briggs]
  - **Paul:** Critical Exposure, Sasha Bruce Youthworks
  - **Rebecca:** Thrive, Marie Reed
5. **Other SJA Opportunities:** We discussed the Board's desire to increase collaboration between WUCC and the grantees, especially as to volunteer activities, special events, and in-kind donations. Some of the ways we will highlight the good work and opportunities for collaboration are:
  - a. **Mission Moments** (Melissa)
  - b. **Monthly blurb in Westmoreland Newsletter & Bulletin** (Sarah). We will highlight each grantee throughout the year. Liaisons should provide Sarah with information such as special events, volunteer opportunities, accomplishments, or in-kind donation needs.
  - c. **Promote Easter offering:** The Board has not yet fully discussed the information we want to include in the bulletin and newsletters before Easter, or who will speak. Rebecca will update Caryn's summary of grantees for distribution at either the Palm Sunday or Easter services.

- d. **WUCC website update** (Sarah and Rebecca)
  - e. **Social Hall bulletin board** (Cindy)
  - f. **Children/Youth:** Amy Tutt is trying to coordinate the Children's Collection with our grantees. If anyone has additional ideas for involving our children and youth with our grantees, such as the special children's fundraiser for Thrive held in December, we can approach Pat/Adam.
6. **Westmoreland/Shaw Scholarship and Mentorship Program:** Dick described the history and activities of the Westmoreland/Shaw Scholarship and Mentorship Program, which currently provides \$5,000/year scholarships to 3 scholars and matches them with Westmoreland mentors, pro bono financial advisers, free college planning, and more. Dick encouraged SJA members to let him know if they are interested in getting involved as mentors, coordinators, or in any other capacity. In January, they will begin the process of looking for 3 new high school juniors to join the cohort. Melissa also described the separate Shaw Scholars Committee, of which she is the head, which currently provides 20 students with \$1,000 scholarships. If members are interested in getting involved with that program, they can talk to Melissa.
7. **Other SJA activities:** A new member asked if SJA has a role to play in activities like yesterday's Women's March. Past members described the SJA past social justice activities beyond SJA grants, including meeting for marches, attending Moral Revival, hosting concerts or Summer on the Circle, Black Lives Matter/White Privilege. We are always open to new ideas.

**NEXT MEETING: Sunday, February 11 at 8:30am (location TBA).**