

## MINUTES

### Board of Social Justice and Action (SJA)

Sunday, November 13, 2016

**In Attendance:** Melissa Herman, Caryn McTighe Musil, Cindy Saunders, Dick Staufenberger, Rebecca Unruh, Jerry Hartman, Nancy Lohman, Ann Norman.

**October Minutes:** Previously circulated by email and approved. Rebecca will be taking over for Nancy as Secretary.

**Meditation:** We each lit a candle naming what we thought sheds light in a period in which hatred, bigotry, xenophobia, bullying, and racism seemed to have triumphed.

**Treasurer's Report:** We have \$50,731 to give away to SJA grant recipients, which will cover more than the \$48,379 requested by grant applicants.

**Social Justice on the horizon:** The children's collection will be for toys or clothing for babies to children age 8 in Anacostia Health Care Center. Ten Thousand Villages will be here on Sunday, December 18 and on December 10 the Choir evening concert will benefit Calvary Women's Center. Shaw Community Center Thanksgiving bags will be delivered soon, and SCC Christmas gifts will be collected in December in the social hall.

**Grant application update:** Jubilee Jobs missed the grant application deadline this year but will reapply next year. They hope to recruit Westmoreland volunteers for their events this year again. The Board agreed that we should emphasize in next year's grant application cover letter that we are looking for specific descriptions and budgets showing how the organization will use the grant money. All applicants did this, but some were more concrete than others.

**Budget:** The SJA members discussed proposing that Westmoreland's budget include the SJA collections and grant allocations as expense/income. It seems odd not to include such a large item in the budget. Keeping it in the budget would show our congregation's commitment to social justice, and would ensure that funds would not be subject to the vagaries of weather, etc. The Board voted unanimously to make this proposal to the Budget Committee at a level of \$50,000, reflecting the amount raised and granted in FY2016. Dick left the SJA meeting briefly to make the proposal at a Budget meeting occurring at the same time. Upon returning, he said the proposal generated much discussion and was well-received.

**Grant Decisions:** SJA members had previously reviewed and circulated summaries by e-mail of all grant applications, with 2 members reviewing any grant applications asking for \$5,000 or

more. The Board discussed each of the 16 grant applications and decided to fully fund each at the requested amount. The Board discussed that that we might seek applicants from PG County, and Nancy noted that we might want to encourage applicants working on environmental justice. The Board agreed that, if the funds requested exceeded the amounts raised next year, we would want to try to spread the grants across various issue areas (homelessness, medical care, aging, enrichment for children, etc.)

**Next Meeting: DECEMBER 11, 2016, 8:30 A.M. [Children's Center again in basement].**