

MINUTES
Board of Social Justice & Action (SJA)
Sunday, February 12, 2017 8:00-9:50 am

Present: Jerry Hartman, Melissa Herman, Nancy Lohman, Caryn McTighe Musil, Ann Norman, Cindy Saunders, Dick Staufenberger and Rebecca Unruh

Visiting Guests: Rev. Tim Tutt and Nancy Pielemeier

1. **Opening Prayer or Meditation:** Caryn opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** January 2017 minutes were approved.
3. **Discussion with Rev. Tutt re Hosting Marchers:** We discussed Tim's "Hospitality for Marches" document. SJA agreed to take the lead in finding hosts for and extending invitations to college student groups coming to DC for the March for Science, the People's Climate March, the Immigrants March, and the LGBT March. Dick will lead the effort and is available to co-host 3 of the 4 events. He will solicit co-hosts from the SJA Board and will report to Tim. Rebecca agreed to help organize the PR and invitations, and will work with the SJA Board to split up responsibilities among the 4 marches. Rebecca and Caryn agreed to solicit invitations for the Immigrants March. Tim also asked SJA to consider his draft Social Justice and Outreach list to determine priorities. Tim left the meeting after this discussion.
4. **Syrian Refugees:** Nancy Pielemeier proposed that Westmoreland adopt a Syrian refugee family by serving as a bridge for a family that is already settled but needs additional assistance beyond the 3-6 months assistance provided by resettlement agencies. SJA recommended that Nancy P. solicit 3-4 Westmorelanders to form a Task Force to gather information and consider his issue, and explained that SJA was supportive of the idea but did not have the capacity to help spearhead the project given its additional responsibility involved in launching the scholarship/mentorship program. Caryn made a motion to express the SJA Board's support of Nancy P.'s proposal to form a task force to explore Westmoreland adopting a Syrian refugee family. The motion was approved. Nancy P. left the meeting after this discussion.
5. **Treasurer's report and update on funds raised at Christmas (Dick):** Dick reported that \$25,489.92 was collected through the Christmas offerings, that there is a carry-over of \$3,949.12 from 2016, and that the McDowell Fund is transferring \$2,500, for a total of \$31,939.04. We will need to collect approximately \$18,000 during the Easter offering to match last year's SJA grant funds.
6. **Update on College Scholarship and Mentoring Program (Dick, Caryn, Melissa):** Caryn distributed drafts of the program description for the Program and described recent discussions with the Governance Council. They expect to have brochures ready in the spring.

7. **Other Black Lives Matter Activities:** The Board discussed other possible social justice actions, including hosting a showing of the documentary Thirteenth at church. Caryn reminded SJA Board members to review the draft racial covenant circulated in late 2016 and send her any comments.

NEXT MEETING SUNDAY, MARCH 12 at 8:30