

## MINUTES

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

Sunday, March 12, 2017

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

**February Minutes:** Previously circulated by email and approved.

**Meditation:** Caryn read a Prayer for Compassion.

**Treasurer's Report:** We have collected a little over \$32,000. Jerry made a motion to take the minimum withdrawal of \$2,500 from the Barbara McDowell Fund, which was seconded and approved.

**Westmoreland Scholars Update (Subcommittee: Dick, Caryn, and Melissa):** SJA has reported to the Governance Council that SJA's contribution to the Black Lives Matter movement will be its work on the Scholarship/Mentorship program. Westmoreland is working on a Partnership Agreement with Shaw, and has already received \$100,000-140,000 in pledges for the program, which is enough to support at least 5 students at \$5,000 per year for 4 years. The Subcommittee reported that they are working on a brochure for students as well as outreach materials to mentors. They plan to roll the program out to the congregation once these materials are complete. They hope to train mentors during the early summer, and to select students before the Fall. Jerry asked whether the program will have requirements to maintain a certain GPA throughout the 4 years. SJA agreed there should be some minimum requirement and the Subcommittee will make note of this issue. Melissa reported on the success of the current Shaw Scholarship Program and told SJA Shaw Community Center will not be selecting new additional recipients in the Fall in order to support the remaining 18 or so SCC scholarship recipients at later stages of completing their college degrees.

**Marches:** Rebecca has reached out to the organizers of 3 of the 4 marches (Science, Climate, Immigrants) for which we agreed Westmoreland should offer housing. The 4th march (LGBT) has not yet posted contact information for the organizer. Rebecca reported that the Climate organizers responded and have put our church's name (with Rebecca as the contact) as a resource for groups looking for a place to stay before the March. The organizers also put Rebecca in touch with Interfaith Power & Light DMV, which is collecting offers from churches host groups of faith communities coming to DC for the Climate March. Because Rebecca has not yet heard back from organizers of the Science or Immigrants marches, she has started to reach out to colleges who might have students interested in attending the March for Science.

Rebecca will continue to take the lead on (1) contacting the organizers of the 4 marches and (2) conducting outreach to offer to host for the Science and Climate Marches. Caryn agreed to take the lead on college outreach for the Immigrants March, and Cindy will take the lead on college outreach for the LGBT March. If anyone has contacts at particular colleges (alumni, relatives, etc.) please let Rebecca know. Rebecca will let SJA and Tim know if we receive any requests from groups who want to stay in the church. She will keep Dick apprised in particular because he is spearheading the actual hosting.

**Westmoreland Volunteer Corps/SJA Dinner:** It was agreed we should plan a dinner with WVC this spring. We have reached out to Sarah Levin but not yet heard back from her.

**OAR Breakfast:** Melissa reported on the recent OAR fundraising breakfast, which Caryn also attended along with two other Westmorelanders. OAR appears to be a very effective program that gets results. It reinforced the value of SJA grants and of the Westmoreland Volunteer Corps.

**SJA Grants:** SJA members agreed to each contact their two assigned grantees by the next SJA meeting on April 2. Caryn will send a sample email to be used to contact grantees. Caryn provided contact information via email last week. At the next meeting on April 2, we will discuss any revisions to the grant application guidelines.

**Racial Covenant:** Caryn will review and send any edits to drafter.

**SJA Sponsoring Coffee Hour on Palm Sunday, April 9:** Because this is our mission moment Sunday to ask for donations to the Fall SJA Grant Funds and we hope to have representatives from Critical Exposure present as an example of what the congregation's money supports, we also agreed it would give us visibility to sponsor coffee hour in the social hall that day. Caryn has made arrangements to confirm that.

**Next Meeting (1 week early): APRIL 2, 2017 at 8:30 AM (Children's Center in basement).**