

## **New Brackett Church - SOCIAL JUSTICE Task Force Minutes**

**Chair:** Joanne Sterling

**Scribe:** Caron Chess

**Attendees:** Will Green, Anne Coughlin, Linda Capone-Newton, Barbara Carter, Nicole d'Entremont, Tookie Harris, Sarah Ingraham, Karin Elofson, Bill Oliver, Betsey Remage-Healey,

### **Wabanaki Legislation**

Caron reported on the structure of the event about LD1626 scheduled for January 30 at 2PM. The Wabanaki and other leaders knowledgeable about the bill are working very hard, so rather than invite someone to speak we decided to use existing videotapes about different aspects of the bill. Will will be providing an opening and coordinating the zoom.

### **Report on Immigrant Family**

- 1.** Joanne reported that she spoke to a representative of the **Maine Immigrant's Rights**
- 2. MIRC** has moved from a model of matching families to specific organization to requesting support for the larger organization, which is providing hundreds of meals to families living in motels. Joanne noted that there were 70 organizations working with **MIRC**.
- 3.** There was a discussion of whether NBC should leave the fund open. There were suggestions that we revisit the situation monthly or in 3 months. Yet another was that we respond to a specific information, request, or holiday. Because Valentine's day was coming up, we decided to fundraise around the holiday for meals. Will and Bill will be leading. We already gave MIRC the \$500 gift card for the family, and will forward the to MIRC the additional \$1,000 plus that was raised.

### **Meeting with Mike Sylvester**

Betsey brought up the idea of meeting with Mike Sylvester, who has not responded to emails about gun safety or the Wabanaki. There was discussion about having a meeting to introduce ourselves and ask the best way to work with him. We might also ask him about his support for LD1626. No decision was made. A question was raised about whether there are restrictions due to our 501-c3 status on our legislative efforts or interactions with legislators. No decision was made.

### **MUUSAN**

MUUSAN asked for a representative from NBC to serve as Congregational Legislative Liaison. CLLs are the information pipeline between MUUSAN's Issue Groups and UU congregations in Maine. Anne, Joanne, and Will volunteered to rotate attending these weekly meetings.

**Next Meeting Feb. 22 at 4PM via zoom.**