

New Brackett Church - SOCIAL JUSTICE Task Force Minutes May 24, 2022

Chair: Joanne Sterling

Scribe: Caron Chess

Rev. Will: Covenant Reading

Attendees: Ann Coughlin, Will Green, Helen Burton

Minutes correction from April: The date for mailing the policy update was changed from April 29 to May 29.

Wabanaki Update – (Caron) Gov. Mills signed two bills into law. LD 906 provides for clean water for the Passamaquoddy tribe at Sipayik and enables the tribe to work with EPA, rather than the state on clean water issues. LD 575 gives the Wabanaki rights to on-line betting and requires state consultation with Wabanaki on issues that relate to the tribe.

MIRC Update Will volunteered to coordinate the June 24, MIRC meal packing. Here is the sign-up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4caeae22a6f5c16-mirc>

Family Promise Caron spoke to Connie Bingham. Congregations are sponsoring individual families, which is not appropriate for NBC because of travel issues. We asked that Family Promise call on us if we could be helpful in other ways.

Policy for the Assembly Signing Letters of Support for Legislation/Initiatives

We further revised the draft.

Before a letter supporting an action or an issue can be brought to the Assembly for approval, it:

- Must support one of the priorities of the social justice task force
- Requires background information, educational and/or advocacy efforts that involve the SJTF and members of the congregation
- Must include adequate lead time for the Assembly to review the request

Passage of a motion to sign the letter requires at least 75% of those present at the Assembly Meeting to vote in favor.

Hard copies of this draft policy should be distributed June 5 and the policy should be emailed with the agenda of the meeting.

MUUSAN Update

Joanne attended the MUUSAN forum. She reported what NBC had done on climate change, which was a lot: energy savings in church by installation of heat pump; co-sponsoring window builds in the church; and focusing a congregational-led service on climate change.

MUUSAN will be focusing on a Unitarian Universalist effort at voter registration. Saving democracy is a priority. Joanne will set up a call for all who are interested to find out more about the MUUSAN effort. Then we will have information to bring to the SJTF about NBC involvement.

Restorative Justice The NBC Board is taking a multi-week workshop of using restorative justice circles for conflict resolution. This will be announced at the next Assembly meeting.

NEXT MEETING: June 28; 4 pm