

New Brackett Church - SOCIAL JUSTICE Task Force Minutes August 23, 2022

Chair Joanne Sterling

Scribe: Caron Chess

Attendees: Ann Coughlin, Rev. Will Green, Tookie Harris, Barbara Carter

Will opened with a prayer.

Joanne read the covenant.

July 26 minutes were approved.

Reproductive Justice

Caron and Joanne proposed the need for education about RJ prior to a discussion about donations.

Joanne and Caron outlined RJ. (Below) It was decided that Joanne and Caron would present something similar at the assembly meeting. Joanne will set up the projector. Will will add a spiritual element, including *SACReD*. You can learn more [here](#).

What is Reproductive Justice?

Caron explained that there has been push back from Black women that the idea of : “Choice” in reproductive rights applies to privileged women who often have multiple choices. The term “Pro-choice” implies an individual decision, while the term Reproductive Justice describes something larger than an individual is rooted in communities, systems, institutions. It is about access, not choice, and is not just about abortion. Reproductive Justice includes, for example, access to contraception, prenatal care, and resources to raise a family. Based on U.N. Declaration of Human Rights (1994) “Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and the security of person.”

[https:// www.sistersong.net/ reproductive-justice](https://www.sistersong.net/reproductive-justice)

Where do the UUA and UCC stand on RJ?

Joanne explained that both the UCC (since 1971) and the UUA (since 1963) have stood solidly for reproductive rights and Reproductive Justice for many years. She reviewed documents declaring these positions, which you can find here:

UCC

- A [compilation of statements and General Synod resolutions](#) on freedom of choice, family planning and reproductive health.
- A [handout](#) used at the National Youth Event (July 2012) in a workshop on why the UCC is pro-choice which also includes some information on reproductive justice.

UUA

- The [2016 Statement of Conscience “Reproductive Justice.”](#)
- [We Do Not Consent Document AIW 2022](#)

Anne is going to shorten for the bulletin board Caron's outline on organizations that might be recipients of donations.

Worship service on September 11 will be about RJ. Will supported the SJTF including words from black women read by members of the SJTF. Caron to explore potential quotes.

Not clear if the SJTF or the Assembly will make decisions about which RJ organization(s) should be the recipient of donations. Joanne will ask the Board to let us know.

UUtheVoteME

Barbara Carter attended the MUUSAN meeting. She noted it was not clear the extent to which MUUSAN was interested in non-partisan phone banking.

-- Upcoming opportunities for training and meetings. Barbara mentioned the September 10 MUUSAN Networking meeting on zoom She is going to find out more about it.

August 30 2pm zoom training on canvassing.

(After our meeting: MUUSAN posted a calendar of events.)

<https://www.muusan.org/uuthevote-2022.html>

We decided to have voter registration after worship on Sunday September 18 after the service on worship. (Anne following up on voter reg cards...we have to go to Augusta.) Will will post an announcement on Nextdoor.

Wabanaki Bill in the Senate

-- Because Senator King has taken a position against the bill, the Wabanaki Alliance has asked us to hold off writing for now.

Next Meeting: Sept. 27 – 4 pm on Zoom.