

## **New Brackett Church - SOCIAL JUSTICE Task Force Minutes June 28, 2022**

**Chair:** Caron Chess; **Scribe:** Joanne Sterling; **Rev. Will:** Covenant Reading

**Attendees:** Will Green, Linda Capone-Newton, Tookie Harris, Barbara Carter, Mira Ptacin

**May 24 Minutes:** Approved as written.

### **Policy for NBC Assembly Signing on to Policy Letters/Initiatives**

The following policy was approved by the NBC Assembly on June 10, 2022. It was amended to add the option for an email vote when no Assembly meeting is scheduled and a timely vote is required. The motion passed with 18 in favor and 1 opposed.

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 voting in person **or via email** to vote in favor. (Note: In case of an email vote, all voting members of the Assembly will be sent a request for a vote. The 75% tally of the vote will be taken of the email replies, not of the total number sent.)

**Joanne** will amend the policy in the Assembly minutes that the vote will be taken at EITHER an Assembly Meeting OR through email, not both.

### **Social Justice Task Force Bulletin Board**

Anne Coughlin asked that we check out the Social Justice Task Force bulletin board.

### **Reproductive Justice Leadership from Brackett.**

Caron has been looking out for what is going on nationally. Organizations are looking for donations from people who are not in a state at risk.

#### **Fundraising**

Organizations providing reproductive justice support:

- Bridget supplies dollars for women in pregnancies past 15 weeks: funding for travel and the abortion.
- The Abortion Federation – provides counseling.
- AID Access.org – triage – offering abortion pills for places already shut down

Link to a list with descriptions (from Caron): <https://money.com/abortion-access-where-to-donate/>

We need to stay focused to help the most-at-risk. Do we do something that's short-term or long-term? Both? Intersectionality of issues are bound up in this. Plan for the long-haul fight.

Possible Partners: Hope Gateway; Maine Council of Churches; Planned Parenthood of Northern New England (Suggestions: donate, amplify **abortion finder.org**; sign up to volunteer)

The group made a commitment to do some fund-raising and come up with a process to decide which fund to support. People may need opportunity to talk about this; possibly lead a conversation about next steps for the island and feeling so battered; provide a place for reflection and nurturing. How can we help kids who are scared by this?

Possible resources for kids:

- Book - **Sex Is a Funny Word: A Book about Bodies, Feelings, and YOU Hardcover** – by Cory Silverberg (Author), Fiona Smyth (Illustrator).
- UUA/UCC Training - Our Whole Lives (OWL)

### **UUA Reproductive Justice**

The UUA General Assembly (yearly meeting) voted on a position outlined in a **We Do Not Consent** letter. The letter includes many actions we could take. [Read the letter here.](#)

#### UUA Links

<https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/raffirm-justice-ga>

#### Worship Resources

<https://sidewithlove.org/reproductive-justice-worship>

#### Side with Love Organizing sessions (July 21, July 28, Aug, 4)

<https://secure.everyaction.com/MRk97kgVkkID1k3wytP6Q2>

#### Description of Side with Love Sessions:

As we anticipate the likely fall of Roe v Wade in the coming weeks, we know that there will be a huge need for local organizing, resource sharing, and collective action as abortion becomes criminalized in various places. By signing up for this three-part series, you are committing to being a part of organizing a TEAM in your congregation that will organize the congregation for specific action(s) in support of abortion access and Reproductive Justice in your community. Everyone who signs up for this series is expected to bring at least one other person from their congregation, with whom you will apply the learning from these sessions immediately in your own context. Facilitated by Revs. Ranwa Hammamy and Ashley Horan of the Side With Love Organizing Strategy Team.

### **UCC Reproductive Justice**

Links to reproductive justice resources on the UCC.org:

<https://www.ucc.org/reproductive-justice/>

Worship Resources

<https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/worship-resources-for-reproductive-justice/>

Affirming Women

<https://www.ucc.org/reproductive-justice-a-movement-affirming-women-families-and-communities/>

#### Next Steps

We will return to this conversation in a month after we learn more on this topic.

**Caron** will send out the list of organizations to all attendees- (done)

**Will** will call Dr. Ptacin about the work of First Parish UUA in this area – philliptacin@gmail.com

**Joanne** will find out more about OWL training and resources

**Linda** will see what the UUs are doing.

**Mira** will learn more as she researches and writes her next article and will report back at the next meeting.

#### **UtheVoteMe.**

We need a liaison to attend weekly zoom meetings at 11AM on Tuesdays and bring information back to the SJTF and NBC. (not meeting July 5).

Caron will reach out to Georgette. **Barbara, Linda, and Caron** will cover the meetings for the summer. Caron would like someone at our church who knows how to register people how to vote. We could organize events at

other places. We could also reach out to communities that don't usually vote and possibly register people at other churches.

UU the Vote description of the responsibilities for congregational liaisons:

- Congregational liaisons' major role is communication
- Share with their congregation the needs of our partners
- Attend weekly drop in sessions
- Share with other liaisons the resources, activities or questions from their congregation
- Share with their congregation what other congregations are doing
- Meetings are Tuesdays 11-12 from June 12 – November.

Link to the national UUtheVote site: <https://www.uuthevote.org/>

Link to MUUSAN: <https://www.muusan.org/>

### **Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition (MIRC) Update**

Four people from NBC packed meals June 24. Here is the sign-up link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4caeae22a6f5c16-mirc> for those who are interested in signing up and gathering people to pack meals. Slots are available to do this important work six days/week, Monday-Saturday (4:15-ish-6-ish).

### **Wabanaki on Hiatus until Fall**

Work on Wabanaki legislation is on hiatus until Fall. Morgan Talty, author of **Night of the Living Rez** – will speak at a brewery July 6. Set in a Native community in Maine, **Night of the Living Rez** is a riveting debut collection about what it means to be Penobscot in the twenty-first century and what it means to live, to survive, and to persevere after tragedy.

<https://tinhouse.com/book/night-of-the-living-rez/>

### **Gun Safety**

Betsy Remage-Healey leads our gun safety effort, working with the **Maine Gun Safety Coalition** (Show Up Network of Maine (SUN).) The coalition will be working on legislative bills later this year.

SUN link: <https://www.mainegunsafety.org/show-up-network>

**Next Meeting:** July 26 – 4pm on Zoom (Focus on Reproductive Justice.)