

Social Justice Task Force Meeting Minutes April 25, 2023

Attendees: Joanne Sterling (scribe), Caron Chess (facilitator), Rev. Will Green, Anne Coughlin, Helen Burton

Opening: Rev. Will opened with a prayer. Caron read our covenant.

Minutes: The minutes from March 28, 2023 meeting were approved as written.

Immigrant Justice

Helen has gone 3 times and Bill and Nacole have been going to MIRC to pack food.

Georgette feels we shouldn't get involved until the Family Promise moves to their next location.

Help celebrate [Family Promise Giving Day 2023](#). Check out our Facebook page to see stories throughout the day about how volunteers make a difference.

Gun Safety

Betsey reported on gun safety legislation via email. LD168 (Universal Background Checks with exceptions for exchanges/sales within families) is important to her. A workshop session, which has not been scheduled, is the next step. She will let us know when the Advocacy session is scheduled. The horrendous mass shooting in Bowdoin last week has brought the need for this bill home.

Once it's clear what the advocacy/protest strategy is, Betsey will let us know. She plans to go up to the State House for it. She'll be happy to bring 3 other people along. Showing up is key.

Betsey is hoping the bills proposing to arm schools will be voted down in committee (hearing is this week). They were referred to the Education Committee which tends to be more open minded than the Criminal Justice Committee.

MUUSAN

CLL liaison – May 6 **10-12:30** in-person session on Maine Housing Crisis. Anne will send a link to sign up. [Register for May 6, 2023 MUUSAN Network Meeting on the Housing Crisis at UU Brunswick \(google.com\)](#)

Anne is driving to Brunswick (taking the 8:15 ferry) for the conference and would be happy to take some people along.

LD199 – trying to reopen MaineCare to all immigrants. (Sponsored by Talbot-Ross) Immigrant children are now covered but the bill would expand coverage to adults also. Encourage our reps to support it.

June 17 – Pride Day. We need a banner when we march with the UU's in the Portland Pride Parade!

Wabanaki

WABANAKI EVENT IN PORTLAND FIRST PARISH

Please join us for Bounty – A Film Screening and Conversation with Penobscot Ambassador Maulian Dana. At the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 425 Congress Street, Portland On [Saturday, May 6, 2023](#) from 3 to 5 PM in the Parish Hall.

This event is part of First Parish's ongoing truth telling and reconciliation process of telling the dark story of a bounty posse against the Penobscot in 1757 that members of our early church participated in.

The short documentary Bounty tells the story of that scalp bounty proclamation – the Phips proclamation – of 1755. This is an in-person only event, not hybrid nor recorded. The event is FREE and registration is not required.

Donations are accepted, and all donations will be split between First Parish and the Wabanaki Alliance. If you wish to reserve a spot and donate with a credit card online, you can go to the Eventbrite link below. At the event, we'll accept donations by cash or check only.

Register on Eventbrite and help spread the word: [Bounty - A film screening and conversation with Ambassador Maulian Dana Registration, Sat, May 6, 2023 at 3:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Legislation

The Legislature is still negotiating over the Sovereignty Bill. The Bill may be moved to short session.

Open House for Peaks Fest Communication Proposal (See attached)

The Open House is June 17, which will coincide with the St. Christopher's Open House. We would like to have the communication bulletin boards completed by then. The Communication plan is attached and is being implemented by the Bridge and Worship Committees.

Tookie thinks we should have a heart as the center, but others were less enthusiastic about a heart. Other ideas were a lighthouse and a star as the center. Caron would like to present both the spiritual and non-spiritual activities the church engages in the front hallway. Others concurred that it was important.

DRAFT: COMMUNICATION PLAN FOR INSIDE NBC

The Bridge and Worship committees are jointly developing an effort that will use the NBC building to communicate with members and with visitors who attend events.

Timeline: June 17, Open House for Peaks Fest is the target date for as much as possible.

Communication Goals: 1) Share our excitement about NBC; 2) Engage people in NBC life; 3) Promote communication among members, Committees, Board, and community.

Where to Communicate

Use our bulletin boards so we can update info easily. Focus on visuals, especially action photos.

1. The bulletin board as you enter the church will feature the current poster, as well as a listing of regularly scheduled spiritual activities. We also want to include a few visuals (ideas needed) that illustrate NBC is much more than the sum of its spiritual/religious practices.
2. The standing bulletin board in the fellowship hall will be the primary focus. (See below.)
3. The bulletin board currently with Social Justice Task Force postings will be used for flyers of upcoming events, with NBC events distinguished from those of orgs that meet at NBC.
4. The bulletin board in the Vestry will be managed by the Worship Committee. Initial plan is to highlight information about the two denominations we have joined: UUC, UUA.
5. Someplace to list orgs for which we are fiscal sponsors? Covenant poster?

Contents of Large Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall

1. Unifying, large graphic (tree or other nature image?) that branches to structures of NBC. Ultimately should be something more durable than paper. Need to work with graphic designer.

2. Staff: photos Rev Will, admin, choir director with contact info
3. Structures
 - a. Board. Photos of members with titles and contact info. Something visual that represents what the Board does.
 - b. Committees (each has photo of chair with contact info)
 - Bridge* (include social justice task force): Photos of directory, rummage sale, date night, Wabanaki graphic
 - Worship*: Photos of Choir, Wonder and Walk, Will with kids at alter, both eucharists,
 - Stewardship*: Photos of constructing picnic table, installing new windows, placing ramp? Committee suggestions?
 - Finance*: We look forward to the committee's suggestions. Karin suggested they don't want much space since their activities are not photogenic.

Next steps

Planning Process: Timmi (Worship chair), Caron (Bridge Chair), and Anne (Board Secretary) will elicit ideas and materials from Committees and update the Board and Committees about our plans. We hope to find a graphic designer to help plan and implement the project.

Chairs submit to Caron proposed a) priorities to communicate; b) ideas for visuals/photos to illustrate those priorities. (You may want to focus on priorities that lend themselves to visuals.) ***Deadline: No later than Friday May 19***

We will develop a photography "bank" (perhaps Google docs) as a repository for photos of NBC activities that can be used for a variety of efforts, including the bulletin boards. (Perhaps designate a NBC photographer?) Please, committees begin documenting your activities and gathering existing photos.