

## UUC Social Justice Council Meeting August 24, 2024

### Minutes

*The Mission of the UUC Social Justice Council is to facilitate communication and cooperation between the Council members, Social Justice Committees, UUC Board of Trustees, UUC congregation, and the wider community.*

Meeting Chair: Linda Stoller. Secretary (rotating): Trude Diamond

Attendees: Carol Hamilton, Christina Bellamy, Eloise Hardman, Carole Vaughn, Bob Hedlund, Sue Hand, Cibby Orozco, Anne Burnham, Kathy Krohn

### 9:30 Chalice Lighting and Opening Words, Brief Check-in

### 9:45 Acceptance of Minutes of Meeting on July 27,2024

Two clarifications were made to the minutes: Labor for BLM banner . SJC retreat clarification.

### 10:00 Treasurer' Report and Community Outreach Recipients

#### *Treasurer's Report:*

- HEP: Members donated \$819.24: \$306.87 was spent to buy additional backpacks to meet our commitment of 25 backpacks; \$512.37 was given to HEP to buy supplies for their Back-to-School Bash.
- July SJC community outreach recipient, Clothes to Kids: \$1562.62.

#### *Community Outreach:*

- The August recipient has been Recovery Epicenter Foundation.
- September's recipient is The Poynter Institute.
- October recipient will be Pinellas Meals on Wheels (Neighborly Care Network)

### 10:45 Committee Reports

#### *1. Racial Justice*

On hiatus until September. Some UUCers attended the Alianza cultural event on August 16 and the screening of the documentary "Know Your Place" at the Woodson Center, sponsored by RaceWithoutIsm, on August 17. Next meeting: September 7, 10:30-11:45. Zoom link is in the *Octagram* and emailed to RJ members with the agenda.

#### *2. FAST*

UUC FAST team leaders Lore Eargle and Linda Stoller are gearing up to begin the FAST year. They met with Rev. Amy and began planning our "house meetings" which begin the process of building the UUC FAST Justice Ministry for 2024-2025. Rev. Amy has revised the script to include a reference to our newly adopted UU Values. Linda and Lore have chosen dates for the house meetings. Linda will be having a meeting on Zoom on

September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7PM and an in-person meeting at UUC on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. Lore will have an in-person meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup> and a zoom meeting TBD. We hope to bring 65 people to the Nehemiah Action this year. Meanwhile, the FAST issue committees are continuing to set up meetings with elected officials to follow up on the three issues: clean water, affordable housing, and criminal justice.

### *3. Environmental Justice*

On hiatus until September.

### *4. NAMI*

The National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) has been meeting every second Wednesday, noon to 1:30 in the Patio Room. The group is called Family Support Group, and the focus is on what can help families and friends cope better with a person they care about who struggles with a mental illness. In the 8 months we have met, there have been a variety of caregivers represented: mothers, sons, couples, neighbors, grandfathers, aunts, sisters – anyone who needs a listening ear, current resources, and meaningful stories. All are welcome. No fee; donations gratefully accepted. Participants find tremendous value in the meetings.

### *5. Interfaith Tampa Bay – no report*

## **11:15 New and Continuing Programs**

### *1. Black Lives Matter banner*

Linda ordered the banner this week. It will be mounted when it arrives by Bill Newton and Carl Hansen, who are building the case for it next week. We appreciate Bill and Carl!

### *2. Post card writing*

September 1 kick-off, Part 2: Goal 1000 postcards from Sept. 1 and Oct. 15. We're coordinating with Common Ground, which supports the civil rights of People of Color. The group we're writing to is women of color in Polk county, regardless of party affiliation. The cards are colorful and contain the website link to their Supervisor of Elections.

Kathy Krohn: The Mindfulness Meditation group, Exhale!, will provide snacks for the September 1, "Sanity Social Hour" when we kick off the postcard writing.

Anne, Linda, and Carole V: Stamps for postcards are expensive, and Linda bought the Common Ground postcards, which are discounted, using part of our SJC budget. Carole V will explore getting a grant from UU Justice of Florida to cover some of the stamps' cost for people who want to contribute their time without a financial burden.

### 3. PFLAG – plans for 2024-25

Wendy, PFLAG group president, and Rev. Amy and Linda met. PFLAG will sign a lease for another year to meet at UUC, one meeting/month, 5:30 PM on the third Thursday. Allies are invited to PFLAG meetings. More UUC/PFLAG fund-raising events are in the works: maybe a trans resource fair, drag queen bingo, and similar events. This is part of UUC renewing our “Welcoming Congregation” designation.

4. *International Day of Peace event*: United Faiths (usual “Walk of Peace”) Group, *Prayers for Peace*: Sept 21, 6 PM, at the Faith UCC church, 1650 Pinehurst Rd, Dunedin. Ministers of many denominations will offer prayers for peace. See full program flier attached.

#### Interfaith Story Circles

September 25, 2024  
7pm at Clearwater Quaker Friends  
Baywood Shores Clubhouse  
596 Baywood Dr. N, Dunedin  
<https://clearwaterfriends.org>  
Theme: “Community”

#### International Day of Peace

September 21, 2024



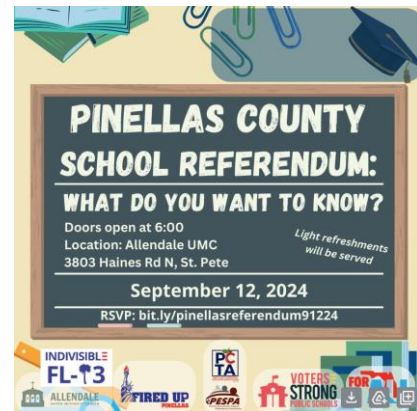
### 5. Social Justice Retreat – Planning Committee Report:

- *Date*: Saturday October 19, 2024
- *Time*: 9:30 AM – 1 PM
- *Place*: UUC Social Hall
- *Inclusiveness & Engagement*: All UUC members and friends should be invited. Special outreach to new people even if they aren't officially members yet. (Carole V. special outreach to new folks)
- *Goals for the day*:
  - Recharge ourselves and have fun, review and evaluate the past year's work.
  - Appreciate the folks who are working so hard on the different projects.
  - Set goals and plan the coming year.
- *Broad Schedule for the Day*
  - Kick off with a song/dance (Linda and Cibby are facilitate this)
  - Opening words and lighting of chalice (Rev. Amy)
  - Review and evaluation of Year's work, the UU values to which each of our projects connects (Committee chairs, Treasurer & Community Outreach; Christina will facilitate the committee report/appreciation “fishbowl.” Rev. Amy will help with evaluation.) PAST FISCAL YEAR: June 2023 – June 2024
    - **COMMITTEE LEAD PLANNING NOTE**: Prepare with your team members who will attend the Oct. 19 retreat, so our time-limited report during fishbowl is concise.
  - Looking into the Future (Linda will lead, with committee chairs)

- **COMMITTEE LEAD PLANNING NOTE:** Goals for the coming year – *Prepare* the list of these goals with your team.
- What can new people bring to the table? (Brainstorming and other techniques)
- Building our UU Social Justice Calendar for the year (Carol Hamilton and everyone)
- Closing words and extinguish the chalice
- Songs and dancing
- Lunch and continue the conversation. Catering?

**11:45 Social Justice calendar any additions?**

1. Racial Justice and Environmental Justice clarified their September meeting dates.
2. Florida Parks meeting about putting golf and pickle ball facilities in public parks has been postponed. Keep an eye out for local meetings and protests.
3. Schoolboard meeting Work Session / District Strategic Plan & Other School Board Business: Tuesday, August 27, 2024, 11:00 a.m. School Board Conference Hall / Administration Building, 301 4th Street SW, Largo, FL 33770.
4. Pinellas County School Referendum meeting: September 12, 6 PM, Allendale UMC, 3803 Haines Rd, N., St Pete. Maybe post the image on your FB page and suggest that folks attend.



**Next SJC Meeting: September 28th at 9:30 on Zoom.**