

# Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

September 17, 2018, 7:00PM, St. Louis Room

Present: Deacon Ron Smith, Sarah Swanson, Mary Ross, Doreen Berg, Jean Boot, John Wilson, Jarrett Wendt, Cynthia Shriver, Jessica Loecke

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

- A. Call to Order – Doreen called the meeting to order at 7 PM.
- B. Opening prayer – Ron led the opening prayer.
- C. Welcome & introductions- Jessica Loecke, the guest speaker, was introduced.
- D. In Service - Martha's House of Hope - Jessica Loecke. Jessica spoke about the progress that has been made in opening Martha's House of Hope, a maternity home, which provides shelter, guidance and counseling services, Christian spiritual development as well as other services to pregnant women. They are a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization and are in the process of hiring an executive director. They have secured funding for the first year of operation and are currently fundraising for the second year of operation as well as applying for grants. The house will be modeled after the Bethlehem House in Omaha. Currently, there are no residents.

## BUSINESS MEETING

### A. MINUTES

- a. August Draft Minutes- Cynthia. The minutes, as seen in the packet material, were approved by consensus.

### B. CORRESPONDENCE – Thank you notes from MICA and Story County Dental Clinic.

### C. FINANCIALS

- a. July Financial Report – Jean. Data from the office is slowly coming available. Monetary Receipts: \$4,239.15, Estimated Value of Food Shelf Contributions: \$661.20. Disbursements: \$4,685.97. Bank Balance as of July 31, 2018: \$73,246.08. Discretionary Funds Available: \$6,086.58. July's Special Allocations: Birthright, \$250.00, August's: Friendship Ark, \$250.00, Wellspring's Mission, \$750.00. September: Food Bank, \$250.00, Haiti Fund, \$990.00.
- b. August Financial Report - No report.
- c. Discretionary Funds Discussion – Jean. **By consensus, Martha's House of Hope will be given \$1,000.00, \$840 from Anonymous Bequest and \$160 from Discretionary.** AMOS and the Community ID program are still under consideration for receiving donations from our discretionary funds.

### D. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Pastoral Council – Sarah. The council continues with new member orientation. The Columbarium Committee has met and has asked the diocese for guidelines and requirements. They are also looking into costs, determining how the money will be raised, etc. Archdiocesan Summer Webinar Series. We were encouraged to look at the website especially the social justice section.

<https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/leadership-development-pastoral-planning/summer-webinar-series/>

### E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Advocacy/Publicity
  - \*Bulletin Board/Newsletter – Lynn. No new information.
  - \*Social Justice Brochure – Jarrett distributed the new SJ brochures. The cost was ~\$300. How to cover the printing costs has not been specifically determined. The brochure will be at the September 23/24 ministry fair. The brochure will also be placed in pews for Good Samaritan/Black Bag weekends and in the Welcoming Bag for new parishioners. It is hoped that they could be placed in pews every six months, that they would be placed on both sides of the pews and that they would be collected after 10:30 AM mass.
  - \*Parish Ministry Fair - September 22/23, 2018 after all masses. Doreen will organize and provide materials. She will be at the booth after Saturday evening mass, Jean after the 8:30 AM mass and John Wilson and Cynthia Shriver after the 10:30 AM mass. .
  - \*Social Justice Ministry Fair - February 17, 2019 after the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. masses. Need volunteers
2. Respect Life and Social Justice Formation - Ron
  - <https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/respect-life/respect-life-and-social-justice-formation-for-all/>.
  - Deacon Ron will present the Social Justice Update on Mental Illness and Suicide on September 18, at 7 pm, in St. Claire's room.
3. Climate Solutions Circle - September 8/Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames - John Wilson attended the meeting and will represent STC at the circle. John reported that the event was well attended (~60). Participants expressed enthusiasm for the work and there were many creative ideas on how to take action in our community. Highlights include: 1. UUFA is 100% solar. 2. There is a city wide solar energy project and some Ames' ordinances need to be looked at since they may hinder the progress of incorporating alternative energy solutions in the city.

STC has committed to purchasing 68 power solar packs from the city. Funding details are not available. The next meeting will focus on actions. Meetings are scheduled of October 8 and November 27 at 7 PM at UUFA. John would like to get more young people involved.

4. Unbound (Christian Foundation for Children and Aging/CFCA) - Doreen. Father Jim said he would likely invite the organization to speak at STC within the year.
5. Ames CROP Walk - October 14/Brookside Park. Registration 1:00/Walk 1:30 –Doreen will be speaking to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students on Thursday, September 18, at 2 PM.\* Robin Fletcher is the lead teacher for the event.
6. Paint Your Prayer Retreat– Doreen. October 27, 12:30 - 3:30, South Social Hall. The SJ committee donated \$100 for supplies. Participation is free. The art work produced will be sold at the Christmas Market to support Lila Mae's House.
7. Sister Well Project – Doreen. Doreen will check with Principal Sara Rooney to determine if the Sisters (who are willing) could come and speak to the school children. Doreen will also speak at the next teachers in-service in October about a possible project.
8. AMOS – Doreen for Nancy
  - a. AMOS - Fall Action Planning - October 18, 6:30 registration, 7:30 action begins, First Christian Church (611 Clark Ave.) Candidates for Story County Supervisor will be invited to attend and will be shown the joint housing and mental health team's proposal for Housing First, a model for people in Story County who deal with the issues of homelessness and mental health. Chris Rehmann, from St. Thomas Aquinas, would like at least five people from STC to attend. The minutes of the Ames AMOS Cluster Meeting, held on September 10, 2018, were in the packet committee members received.
  - b. Community ID Program. There was some discussion on how, where, and how much information about the participants will be kept after the IDs are issued.
9. Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance - Nancy/no report
10. Committee reports:
  - a. Good Samaritan- Lynn,
    - \* August 18/19 food pantry donation - 356 pounds
    - \* September 15/16 envelopes, cart and food transfer- Keith and Linda Huls
  - b. Hunger Collaboration – Doreen. 1. Over the past year, there has been an overall decrease in the percentage of the meal gap in Story County that is being met through the existing programs. 2. Sara researched how Feeding America calculates the meal gap and how they define food insecurity. 3. The group discussed why food insecurity was on the rise even with low unemployment. 4. The collaboration will try to determine who their target audience should be to ensure that it is addressing the most pressing and appropriate issues. 5. Next meetings, September 20, October 18, November 15.
  - c. Food at First –Doreen (August average 71.9 meals per day).
  - d. Good Neighbor – search for GNEA board member
  - e. Restorative Justice - Barb/Ron
    - \*Butterfly House – Barb. No report.
    - \*Matthew 25 House – Ron. Nothing new.
  - f. Individual Assistance – Ron. Requests were as usual.
  - g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie. No report.
  - h. Sanctity of Life – Garland's minutes of the September 9 meeting were provided in the committee's packet information.
  - i. Home for Awhile – Mary. No report.
  - j. Days for Girls – Mary. Carol and Mary spoke to St. Mary's Circle on Sept. 6, to Altrusa on Sept. 11, and to a group at Collegiate Methodist on Sept. 13. All three groups made donations. Janet from Altrusa recommended we apply for a share of the proceeds from their Christmas Tour of Homes. The Sewing Team donated 300 liners to a DfG service project at Missouri Star Quilt in Hamilton, MO. Kay Hertz, our regional representative will bring them to Hamilton. When completed at the event this weekend (Sept, 22/23), those kits will go to Cambodia. We continue to have new members and inquiries.

11. Additional concerns

F. Prayer/Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM with a prayer.

\*Mary substituted for Doreen in speaking to the classes.