UU Social Justice Team
Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2021
Via Zoom

Anti-racist Committee - Penny Hall

Meeting twice a month. Created a mission statement: The mission of the Anti-Racism committee is to work for racial justice by:

- Educating ourselves through reading and listening to scholars and activists
- Sharing our learning with the congregation
- And advocating and taking action in the wider community

Currently expanding our involvement with the #Teach the Truth movement and Critical Race Theory and the way it is being used as a divisive tool by the conservative right.

South Kingstown Police Department Faith & Blue - Jean Bowen

Jean, Penny, Elise Bender and Larry Kelland attended a meet and greet with members of the SKPD and community congregations. Participants were encouraged to share their concerns and feedback. Our representatives asked many questions and commented about scamming of congregants, the previous police department members had a history of racial profiling and this has added to memories of “daytime nightmares” in the community. We learned more about the training received by the department. The state is requiring all police departments to become accredited and training and policies will be standardized between RI cities and town. They will be offering training on their new scamming presentation to congregations in 2022. Officer Bryan Monti is aware we would like this to occur for our members via zoom.

Share the Plate - Barbara Beckwith

Dorcas, International will be the recipient of the November and December Share the Plate. We wish to support their efforts to relocate up to 150 Afghan refugees in RI. Barbara will handle the communication.

Women's Rights - Gail Burchard

Together Women Rise (formerly Dining for Women) is still meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. Raised a total of $35,800 since inception. The Huddle - Gail and others attend these monthly meetings and share information on political action and government practice.

Oct 2nd the Women's March to support abortion rights was attended by several UUCSC members in both PVD and North Kingstown.

Immigration

There are no persons to lead this committee any longer. Gail suggested we combine forces with The Huddle on immigration issues.

Climate Action/Green Task Force

Several members attend Climate Action Rhode Island (CARI) events, participate in the Chase Bank actions and meet with staff of the Treasurer's Office to encourage more socially responsible investments.

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense RI - Jean Bowen

The chapter is discussing support and concerns for the next legislative session, planning an event for survivors of gun violence at the Non-Violence Institute the week before Thanksgiving.

Disability Committee

Several noted the excellent job that Sally Barney has done as part of the facilities committee to improve accessibility

Equal Exchange - No Update

Social Justice Team Jean and Cathy Solomon have worked together to plan for Cathy to take the Leadership role of this team. Effective this month Cathy will be the Chairperson and Jean will provide leadership support and engagement with the Team and its sub-committees.