

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2024

Present Sharye Skinner, Monica Styron, and Stated Clerk Paul Rack
Excused: Eric Adamick

Active Members of SJC

There has been no response from Ben Fitzgerald-Fye norJulienne Oldfield so going forward communications will be to those who did respond (see present and excused)

Anti-Racism Policy: there was discussion and changes added to the policy which has been sent to the committee members. The changes were approved by those present.

Anti-Harassment Policy:

Paul will seek further clarification from Synod and GA folks regarding the issues identified as questionable. E.g. who is responsible for tracking complaints etc.

Note: If we need another SJC meeting Prior to the Sept 16th Presbytery Meeting Paul will let us know.

Resolutions from GA meeting in Utah this summer

Monica will send a sampling of resolutions published by Presbyterian Peace Fellowship to be shared in Presby Matters. Sarah Buckshot ts the info by tomorrow. (see below).

Follow-up from July SJC mtg

1. From a **suggestion at our May Presbytery Meeting** Eric notified us that he has connected with the local JVP and will let us know how we might partner with them.
2. **IFW made a request for \$30,000 for its Refugee Resettlement Program.** At the May mtg of Presbytery the Finance Committee recommended that they grant \$15,000 (from unused funds budgeted to the Interim Resource Presbyter who left mid-year). It was approved. Also, Fin Comm also recommended that congregations assist making up the difference with their mission-funds. Two anonymous donors contributed \$9,000. Leaving a \$6,000 shortfall. Hopefully congregations will rise to the occasion and contribute.
Monica will get the list of the congregations that have contributed to IFW Refugee Resettlement Program in previous years. And send them the request letter written to the Presbytery by Beth Broadway (CEO) of IFW) with an invitation to contribute mission funds.

Requests from the Vision & Strategy Committee: Per our July meeting, here's a link to the Center for Jubilee Practice which is more local than restorativeactions.org. Both are great, and maybe we can work with both, but I did want to make sure we knew what was out there.

They're partnered with Utica Presbytery right next door, so that should be a helpful window, in addition to me knowing the co-directors. They would be more than happy to do anything with our presbytery, so just know that's an option.

<https://jubileeppractice.org/>
<https://jubileeppractice.org/what-we-offer>

Monica will let V&S Comm know our interest in the 2025 retreat with the above suggestion

3. Requesting \$40,000 for SJC 2025 to the Finance Committee. For Interfaith Works Refugee (IFW) resettlement program (\$30,000), And funds for training events (e.g. racism, LGBTQ, harassment, etc) and for possible rural social justice projects.

TO; Presbytery Matters
From the Social Justice Committee

In case you haven't heard yet: the **General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)** approved by unanimous consent the following resolution and overtures!

[FIN-15] Divest from Governmental Debt Held by Countries Maintaining a Prolonged Military Occupation. This Commissioners' Resolution makes the church's Board of Pensions and Foundation divest from Israeli bonds (as well as Turkish and Moroccan bonds).

[FIN-01] On Engagement with General Electric and Palantir Technologies, Inc. for Possible Divestment Recommendations. This overture calls upon the church's committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) to begin engaging in dialogue and shareholder resolutions with GE and Palantir Technologies in an effort to get those companies to stop contributing to human rights abuses in Palestine, Yemen, China, and the US. If the companies don't change their behavior after two years, MRTI would recommend to the next GA to divest.

[INT-05] On Confessing our Complicity in Christian Zionism. This overture makes a rejection of Christian Zionism official church policy and would have church officials share this rejection with our partners around the world.

[INT-06] Educational Resources for Seeking Ways to End Israeli Apartheid. This overture directs Presbyterians to the many resources we have developed to educate people about Israeli settler colonialism, apartheid, Zionism, and peacemaking