

**Saint Pascal Baylon Catholic Church**  
**Social Justice and Caring Committee**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday, August 6, 2020 (via Zoom)**

Present: Martha Arko, Anna DeCrans, Kendall Doom, Bill Dorgan, Ann Karner, Christine Malec (minute writer), Margaret Malec, Fr. John Mitchell, Kim Roering, Mary Weyandt and Julianne Wojick

**JustFaith Catholic Program**

Ann reported that the next module of the JustFaith Catholic program will begin on Tuesday, August 11, 2020, will last for nine weeks and will be held via Zoom. She stated that the topic of the program will be “Faith & Racial Equity: Exploring Power & Privilege” and, that, due to this theme, the upcoming “We Were Made for These Times: How Do We Respond?” will serve as the guest speaker/immersion evening. She said that twelve parishioners have enrolled in the program.

**Prayer Service for Racial Justice**

The committee members reviewed the Prayer Service for Racial Justice that was held at the parish (and via livestream) on Tuesday, August 4, 2020. They agreed it was very well done and they felt it was very moving. They appreciated the music, the preaching, the eight minute forty-six second moment of silence for personal reflection etc.

Ann stated that she felt it was a nice kick-off for the upcoming Just Faith “Faith & Racial Equity: Exploring Power & Privilege” program.

The committee members discussed trying to build on the momentum of those who attended the prayer service by inviting them to participate in the upcoming “We Were Made for These Times: How Do We Respond?” event.

**We Were Made for These Times: How Do We Respond? Event**

Kim reviewed the “We Were Made for These Times: How Do We Respond?” event that will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, September 15, 2020. (This was previously referred to as the “Faithful Citizenship” event.) She said this event will be a conversation to explore a faithful and faith-filled response to the systematic injustices confronting eastside communities and that participants, using the upcoming election as a backdrop, will examine and reflect on current data and community trends to name examples of injustice and will have conversations about individual and collective response and actions for the parish to take as part of its social justice mission and identity.

Kim outlined the event which will include:

- Fr. John starting with an opening prayer,
- Mary welcoming the participants and making introductions,

- Chris providing an overview of the event,
- parishioner Anne Weyandt (Associate Professor of Education at St. Catherine's University) and Sr. Sharon Howell, CSJ (the Director of the Center for Spirituality and Social Justice at St. Catherine's University), having a discussion regarding Catholic identity, discipleship and social justice,
- a question/initial reaction session led by Kim,
- small group reflection and conversation - with the participants dividing up into two break out rooms - one lead by Anne and the other by Sr. Sharon,
- returning to a large group discussion to review what was learned and to discuss possible next steps and
- acknowledgements and a closing prayer.

Kim stated that data provided by the Minnesota Compass website regarding demographics and statistics for the eastside of St. Paul will be shared at the event. She noted that some of the questions that may be used during the breakout sessions include:

- What did you notice or begin to wonder about as you examined the data?
- Are there partners in the community we can reach out to for assistance?
- What opportunities are there for parishioners to participate in this work?
- How will you continue to inform the parish/community about progress along the way?

The committee members spoke about advertising for the event. Kim said that she has drafted the flyer for the event. Other possibilities discussed included putting information in the bulletin and the parish's electronic newsletter, the *Pulse*. It was agreed that this discussion would be continued at the next meeting of the sub-team members who are planning the event.

The committee members debated whether the event should be recorded. They felt that the beginning of the event and the conversation between Anne and Sr. Sharon could be recorded - if this would be okay with the speakers but they thought that the breakout sessions should not - in order to respect the participants' privacy. Mary volunteered to ask Anne if she would be okay with having her conversation with Sr. Sharon recorded and she will also ask Anne to check with Sr. Sharon about this.

### **Possible Future Prayer Service**

The committee members discussed the possibility of having another prayer service to give parishioners an opportunity to prayerfully discern about the upcoming election - through the lens of their Catholic faith.

They thought the service should be held before the October 20<sup>th</sup> deadline for submitting mail-in ballots for election day - perhaps on October 13, 2020.

Fr. John volunteered to speak to Keri Mader, the parish's Pastoral Associate for Ministry, and Sharon Balcom, the parish's Pastoral Associate for Music, if they would be willing to plan such an event.

The committee members agreed they would need to determine a title for this prayer service and that if they have any ideas, they would share them with Fr. John.

### **Future Meeting Format**

The members debated whether to continue to meet via Zoom or if they should resume meeting at the parish. Due to COVID-19-related concerns, they decided they felt more comfortable continuing to meet via Zoom.

Kim asked whether the committee wanted to continue meeting at 6:30 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. The members informed her that this was their preference. She stated that she will ask Thea Munoz, the parish's Communications & Officer Manager, to revise the calendar with the new start time.

### **Women's Club Donation**

The committee members renewed their discussion regarding the \$750.00 donation received from the parish's Women's Club to be used for social justice and/or racism-related issues. Some of the ideas discussed included paying for a speaker to give a talk or using the money to pay for a mass mailing (such as a brochure, letter or prayer card) that would be sent to all parishioners.

They decided to table this discussion until the next meeting.

### **American Red Cross Donation**

Margaret announced that she was given \$100.00 from the American Red Cross as a thanks for the parish hosting the July 6, 2020, blood drive and for meeting its donation goal. She said she purchased an Amazon gift card with this money and will donate it to the parish to be used to purchase books for the social justice library or to download titles on the parish's e-books.

### **One Meeting**

Fr. John mentioned that the next One Body priest meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, and that various members of ISALAH (a multi-racial, state-wide, nonpartisan coalition of faith communities fighting for racial and economic justice in Minnesota) will also be in attendance.

### **Next Meeting**

Thursday, September 3, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Kim will set up the Zoom meeting.

Martha volunteered to lead the prayer.