

Faithful Action Council November 22, 2016

NOTES

Present: Justin, Joan, Karen, Taylor, Cindy, Brian, Joy, Meg, Matt, Ben, Sharon, Charmagne

Welcome

Justin

Reflection – We are ready, this is not a drill. Justin & Joan

Justin read an excerpt from the poem by Clarissa Pinkola Estes – “We are made for these times”

Justin report:

- Faithful Action Council will/can endorse things like:
 - Sanctuary Church,
 - Legal Observer Team,
 - Women’s March on Washington
 - SURJ
- Post election we want to create a “Rapid Response” team

Discussion:

It could be helpful to create a matrix that includes the criteria the Faithful Action Council uses to determine whether we endorse a particular social justice action or event, we participate, or we advertise. We need to create criteria to help make decisions.

Use criteria (which are TBD) to determine whether we (FOR INSTANCE):

- Provide an offering plate to the organization or cause
- Promote the action/cause through First Universalist communications channels
- Provide space for the action/cause at First Universalist
- Promote the participation of First Universalist clergy in the action/cause

A small group will work on developing this matrix.

The Rapid Response Team could be a small committee of the Faithful Action Council. They would develop a small set of criteria that defines a crisis and then take action in a timely manner to endorse, participate, etc. Justin will start engaging people to think about the criteria and matrix for rapid response.

Guiding Principles

Charmagne

Charmagne from the Learning and Evaluation Committee presented a revamped list of principles for faithful action within the congregation and to use to evaluate the work of the Faithful Action Council. The council met in small groups to discuss the draft, using the framework of “I like, I wish, What if, This makes me think of” to provide feedback.

Charmagne agreed to work on a revised draft. The full Faithful Action Council will vote on the revised draft in January.

Holiday Giving 2016

Justin & Joan

Every other year, we do a big giving campaign. The working group for 2017 holiday giving will start in January 2017. The Faithful Action Council will have a discussion in January about the budget for the Council and our partner organizations, including how the money from the offering plates is distributed.

Working Group Updates

- Partnerships – Marjorie

Team Lead meeting 11/10

Check-in meetings Nov./Dec.

Calendar for Winter/Spring Partner process

The Partner Sundays have been successful, with good levels of donations, except for the one that was held on MEA weekend (don't do that in 2017). April 2017 is the start of applications for new partners. The Partnerships Committee is meeting in December 2016 to create the application process and will report on that in January.

Brian indicated that if partner teams need anything regarding racial justice, ask him.

- Communications Taylor

Discussion on communications needs in next six months: wrap up Partner Sundays, distribute information about new partner applications, update the Faithful Action brochure and add the principles. In May or June, will publish a year-end snap shot.

- Spiritual Reflection Justin & Meg

Report: Justin and Meg are working on a tool for groups to use. Working on incorporating a personal commitment to racial justice into the spiritual reflection tool. The beginnings of a framework include: facts, relationship building, stepping up/taking risks. By May/June, should have something for all teams. Will also try to create something short-term.

- **Partner Sundays Update** Matt & Charmagne

Sept 18: EMERGE

Oct 2: Project for Pride in Living

Oct 9: Simpson Housing Services

Oct 23: Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light

Oct 30: Augsburg Fairview Academy

Nov 6: Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

Dec 4: Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

Not much to add since we reviewed feedback on Partner Sundays at the last Faithful Action Council meeting.

8:30 Youth Engagement Proposal

Lauren Wyeth, Director, RE Youth & families

Lauren presented information about how Faithful Action is being incorporated into religious education. There is an emphasis on partnerships and ongoing relationships that children and youth can be a part of. The R.E. curricula is improving. Children, youth and families look for 2 things from RE: 1) how to navigate milestones like COA and 2) how to navigate difficult topics: racial justice, sex & sexuality.

There are 35 Sundays in RE in a year plus 1 week racial justice camp in the summer. The proposal is for youth to work with the Faithful Action partners in the summer.

Big question for Faithful Action Council: are the partners ready to have youth interns?
Feedback provided.

Matt and Ben will liaison with Lauren. She needs help navigating relationships with Faithful Action partners.

Closing: Justin