



Faithful Action Council September 19, 2017 7:00-9:00 pm, Chalice Room Meeting Notes

(Posted on Church Website, Faithful Action Council)

Mission: The Faithful Action Council provides opportunities for church members and friends to act with humility, bravery, and compassion as we work for justice. We act with a racial justice lens, through community partnerships, as we address systemic inequity and create positive change through education, advocacy, direct service, and generosity.

Goals:

- Establish meaningful and well-resourced partnerships with community organizations and other faith organizations that leverage our overall impact.
- Define opportunities that engage congregants of all ages and interests.
- Address systemic barriers that can be influenced by our faith-based values.

The second meeting of the Faithful Action Council for the 2017-2018 year was held on Tuesday Sept 19, 2017. In attendance were Karen (co-chair), Lane, Charmagne, Jeff, Jill, Richard, Katrina, Birch, Muriel, Chris, and Joan (11). All but four were new members.

Karen called the meeting to order and a reflection was read, "Choose to bless the day" by Rev. Rebecca Parker.

Holiday Giving Update. Three members of the 2017 Holiday Giving Team shared a report on the upcoming Holiday Giving program. The process to solicit applicants (19 total), criteria to evaluate the requests, methodology (7 priorities, ranking/weighting, approach) were described in detail, including the focus on racial equity. Several finalist organizations were shared with the Council on a preliminary and confidential basis. Next steps include a review with Rev. Jen who is filling in for Rev. Justin (on sabbatical) and final selection. Their goal is to select a recipient by Oct. 1 and share the results with all applicants. It was suggested that providing each application pointers/reasons that their application was (or was not) selected would be helpful and in the spirit of our partnership principle. The Team will share the results with the FAC prior to the broad announcement. The Holiday Giving process will roll out in Nov at church. The team was congratulated on their process, transparency, and adherence to First Universalist values and principles.

Volunteer Database Update. Hal Schroer shared an update with the Council about the volunteer database project which has been underway for 1.5 years. There will be a church-wide kick-off on Nov. 5 from the pulpit with the theme of "Connected Church" emphasizing the many uses for congregants, church groups, and church leaders to connect the people of the church to their areas of interest, skill, and availability. The Council was asked to request all volunteers in Faithful Action to become part of the ACS Volunteer database in October. The Council agreed that this was an important capability, and to support this work. Examples given include identifying 17 congregants interested in tutoring and 11 with skills in data entry

as early wins of such a system. There were questions about access/security, and how to identify Millennials to help refine the system.

Spotlight Sunday – no updates this meeting

Working Groups – Brainstorming by all. The work of the Council is done by Working Groups, who go deep into actions and bring recommendations to the Council for final decisions at regular FAC meetings. Working Group actions have been developed in the past two years; this year, they will refine and build on prior work. In order to provide ideas from all Council members to kick off each Working Group, the Council divided randomly into 4 small groups. Each small group brainstormed for a few minutes about what the Council will need from each Working Group in the coming year, such as specific goals and tasks. The 4 Working Groups addressed were: Advocacy, Spiritual Reflection, Communication, and Evaluation. The small groups rotated the topics and built on the other group's ideas. Karen will summarize the notes and bring them to a future meeting of the Council for each Working Group to build their plan for the year ahead. The Partnership Working Group will be a committee of the whole Council, without a small working group managing that important work, and will be addressed at the October meeting.

Announcements:

- Sign Up Sunday is Sept 24 (this Sunday). Joan will staff the FAC Table in the social hall after both services. Other FAC members (especially new members) are invited to join her to represent the Council. We will have sign-up sheets for AFA and Habitat needs this fall, and also point folks to the Volunteer DB table nearby. Chris will join Joan after the second service.
- Minneapolis Mayoral Forum will be held at First Universalist on Tuesday 9/26 at 7 pm. Several of our Faithful Action Partners are co-sponsors. The League of Women Voters are also a sponsor. Barb and Gary Melom of our church have organized this event which focuses on homelessness. This is an important opportunity for our church to live our values in the community. Several of the mayoral candidates will be present.
- The Advocacy Working Group would like to host Homelessness/Housing Table talks in January to kick off the legislative season. We will use Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative materials and gather suggestions from congregants/friends about where we should focus our energies. Joan, Peg, Jess, and Autumn (congregants) participated in a Beacon forum last week and recommend bringing this forward. The Council concurred.

Upcoming meetings:

- Oct.24. Working groups will meet. We hope to have Rev. Ashley Horan of MUUSJA at the meeting. We will take a photo of this year's Council. Discuss the Fall Team Lead meeting agenda and logistics.
- Nov. 28. We will ask Partner Team Leads from First Universalist to join our meeting, or to have the Team Lead meeting for part of the evening (all FAC members are required to attend) followed by the FAC meeting. TBD/discussed at October meeting.

Next meetings:

2017-2018 Council will meet the 4th Tuesday of each month from 7 pm to 9 pm, from August to June (no meeting in Dec. or July) in the Cummins Room.

- October 24
- November 28
- December - no meeting
- January 23
- February 27
- March 27
- April 24
- May 22
- June 26