

Agenda: Chapter Retreat

A. Opening Prayers (John) [20 mins.]

B. Overview (Nancy) [10 – 15 mins.]

1. Introductions (for any new members)

2. A look back at the last year--what were we most proud of? What did we not accomplish (if anything)

C. Group exercise/spiritual reflection (Linda) [60 mins.]: The question: what is the common foundation of our work (prisoner justice, hunger/food justice/environment, justice in Israel/Palestine)? This exercise examines our Baptismal foundations, by focusing on the Renunciations/Turn to Jesus in our Baptismal Rite. The theological approach is that of Walter Wink and Rene Girard, and their analysis of the Powers which we renounce in Baptism. The exercise will involve homework to 'prime the pump' for our work together. The goal is a common statement: we believe X, therefore we do Y. Note: this exercise may be something we'd like to continue at the beginning of each Chapter meeting?

Homework: participants each select 2 Biblical passages that express to you the call of Jesus to abundant life in the Kingdom of God think of Jesus' words/actions/opponents responses/Gospel writers commentary/passages from Old Test. fulfilled in Jesus/ Epistles/ etc. What does Jesus show to us about God's Kingdom that we would never glimpse without his life/death/resurrection? We promise in Baptism to turn to Jesus and put our whole trust in his grace and love , so who is this Jesus and what alternative to 'the world' does the Spirit of Jesus offer us?

D. Looking ahead (Deb) [D&E : 90 mins.]

Based on the exercise and discussion, develop an outline for the coming year of what we would like to achieve. Program ideas? Possible speakers? Partnerships with other churches and orgs? Education--perhaps a film or film series on various issues? Time some events to the liturgical calendar and/or days such as the International Day of Peace. This would be more by way of brainstorming and would require follow-up and additional work after the retreat.

E. Sharing our work (Deb)

Draft (or, depending on the time, assign someone to draft) a communication strategy for informing others (St. John's parishioners, etc.) of our plans for the coming year.

F. Wrap-up and next steps (Nancy)

G. Closing prayer (Cathy)