

Minutes from March 6, 2014 Meeting of EPF of Ithaca Area

Blythe Baldwin opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Prisoners Justice Network: Nancy Siemon volunteered to draft a letter supporting the bill in the NYS Legislature proposed by CAIC, Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement. Eventually this letter will be used for an offering of letters by our congregations.
2. Feast Day service for a Saint involved in social justice: John Jackson suggested Frances Perkins since she actually spent time at the ILR School at Cornell. Her feast day is May 13. The attendees thought this date is good timing for a service.
3. Palestine/Israel Network: **1.** Linda Gaither requested that EPF members sign a letter that is being sent to Pope Frances prior to his upcoming visit to Israel. The letter can be signed by using a link on "Peace on the Go." This letter requests that the Pope talk to the Israeli government about abuses of children by Israeli soldiers and incarceration of children in Israeli prisons. Linda noted that many Christians in the USA are signing on, including past Presiding Bishops of the Episcopal Church USA. Presiding Bishop Katherine has not signed the letter. Discussion occurred as to why this is the case. **2.** Frank Baldwin requested that members write a letter to Barbara Lifton requesting that she oppose a legislative action to punish NYS universities and colleges who divest from companies doing business with Israel.
4. Technology Update: Shannon showed the draft of a web page for EPF that Mike Roman created. Everyone was favorably impressed with the page. Discussion followed how we could get this information and modification of the web page so St. Thomas, St. Matthew, Epiphany could also put the page and information on their web sites. Shannon and Nancy will look into this.
5. Climate Change and Environment: A member (didn't record the name; does anyone know who said this and the source?) said that it is a moral imperative for the church to act about climate change because poor people bear the brunt of climate change impact. Interfaith Power and Light was cited as a source for information.
6. Iran: no report

New Business

1. Bread for the World: John said they are suggesting an offering of letters about foreign aid. The group thought this would be a good activity next fall around the harvest period.

2. We viewed the video “The Stones Cry Out.” The documentary focused on the situation of Palestinian Christians in Israel. It is a very powerful movie. The members decided to purchase two copies of the movie for our chapter. Since Bishop Katherine has called for giving our Good Friday Offerings for the Anglican Church in Palestine, we thought Good Friday would be an opportune time to show this video. We will investigate a showing of this video on Good Friday. We will check with Father Rich at St. John’s.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Siemon