

## Minutes of EPF Meeting, November 6, 2014

Attendees: John Jackson, Linda Gaither Joey Cardamone, Nancy & Ed Siemon, Pastor Wanda Copeland, Father Clark West

Opening Prayer: John Jackson

Note: We did not have a letter writing session as announced on the agenda due to the absence of Frank and Blythe Baldwin.

1. Ithaca Prisoner Justice Network: Discussion began with materials that Steve Hart sent us from WNY Diocese and their successful efforts to pass a resolution at the convention in support of HALT, the NYS bill limiting the use of solitary confinement.  
Secondly, IPJN would like to do an event at St. John's in support of the HALT bill. The event would feature a six-minute video from the American Society of Friends and a speaker. Questions and discussion would follow and a letter writing activity. We need a date for such an event.
2. Israel/Palestine: Linda Gaither presented a bill of \$35 for purchase of materials that the EPF is distributing about the conflict in Israel/Palestine. She is giving these materials to the CNY Committee for Justice in Palestine on our behalf. Nancy will pay the bill out of the EPF treasury.  
Linda attended a third meeting of the above committee which is composed of Jewish activists, Jewish Voices for Peace, a Cornell campus group of Palestinians and Muslims, and Linda, our EPF representative in the group. The group is deciding on Boycott/Divestment/Sanction actions that can be taken. The plan being considered is to protest and boycott Greenstar grocery that is selling humus from Israeli occupied territory.  
The committee is also planning a positive action in support of Palestinians. They are considering supporting El Ali, an Anglican hospital in Palestine.
3. Environment/Care of Creation: Pastor Wanda reported that she is on a diocesan committee that has about \$8,000 in grant funds available for churches for environmental efforts such as energy audits. The grants are aimed at helping to point out ways to save energy. Pastor Wanda will have a table of materials at CNY diocesan convention November 14-15.
4. Rev. Bruce Shipman: Father Clark expressed concern for Rev. Shipman's resignation (pressured) from Yale University after he wrote a letter to the NYTimes questioning the tactics of the Israeli government in the last summer's war in Israel and Gaza. Father Clark will explore the possibility of bringing Rev. Shipman to Cornell with Prof. Ross Brann, who teaches a

course at Cornell about the Israel/Palestine conflict, as the moderator of a presentation/discussion

5. Bread for the World: John Jackson reported that USAID is starting to use local food for aid to encourage the economic health of the areas receiving aid. John is also thinking of an offering of letters at Cornell about feeding the hungry. Tammy could speak. (I didn't get her last name; can somebody give that to me to complete these notes.)
6. New Year's Eve service for Frances Joseph-Gaudet, saint honored for work on prison reform. The service will take place at St. John's at 4 PM., followed by a pot luck. We would like to do letter writing and cards to prisoners. We must be out of the fellowship hall by 6:45 PM to avoid disruption of AA meeting that evening. ( I checked with Father Rich and we are scheduled for this event.) We need to publicize and plan this event.

The meeting ended with a prayer.

Respectfully,  
Nancy Siemon