

Minutes of EPF meeting, December 3, 2015

Attendees: Frank and Blythe Baldwin, Linda Gaither, Joey Cardamone, Nancy and Ed Siemon, Deb Schmidle, John Jackson.

Opening prayer

Reflections: Frank Baldwin read some statements against Muslims made by Republican candidates. He responded to those statements with the bible passage from Matthew 15: 21-28 about Jesus ministering to the gentiles. He stated that Jesus came for all people and this fact does not allow us to discriminate against others. Discussion followed about the politicians calling for restrictions against Muslims in the United States. All agreed that this is reprehensible.

Linda Gaither said a muslim community center in Big Flats, NY has received threats. She also recommended that we call Kirsten Gillibrand and Charles Schumer to object to a rider in the spending bill in the senate which blocks Syrian families from finding safety in the United States. Gillibrand: 202-224-4451; Schumer: 202-224-6542

Committee Updates: reports were sent out online prior to meeting.

Prisoner Justice: Joey Cardamone recommended that the EPF join the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, NRCAT, which has opposed overuse of solitary confinement. Members agreed to look at the web site before the next EPF meeting to decide if we want to join. She believes there are no dues, just signing on in support of NRCAT.

Israel/Palestine: Linda Gaither wants us to show support for Muslim communities including the group in Big Flats. The local group, Committee for Justice in Palestine(CJP) is making an effort to support Muslims.

New Year's Eve event: Frances Joseph Gaudet service and letter writing.

Plans were made for the event. We will have the service at 4:00 at St. John's, letter writing from 4:30 to 5:30 in the Chapman room, followed by

dinner at Loaves and Fishes if people so desire. (This is a revision of the plan put forth at the meeting but I decided I would rather put the latest agreed upon schedule into the minutes rather than the defunct schedule).

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Joey and John will do a homily and the format will be evening prayer from the BCP. The letter writing activity will have snacks provided by members.

Cookies, cider, hot cups, napkins: Linda

Coffee pot: Joey

Coffee, tea bags, sugar: Blythe

Hot water pot, plates: Deb

It was suggested that everyone bring a guest.

Additional Agenda Items:

1. Post office box: Members agreed that we will continue paying for the P.O. box and Linda will request that CJP contribute half, \$41, to help cover our cost because they use our P.O. address.
2. Nuclear weapons: Ira Helfand will speak at Cornell on February 8, 2016, Uris Hall, Einaudi Center from 4:30 – 6:00 P.M. We agreed to sign on as sponsors. No money is required for sponsorship.
3. Human Right Day: December 12, 2015, at Autumn Leaves in the Workers Center, Amnesty International is hosting a letter writing session from 2 – 5 P.M.