

Minutes of EPF Meeting May 5, 2016

Attendees: John Jackson, Frank and Blythe Baldwin, Nancy and Ed Siemon, Joey Cardamone, Deb Schmidle, Cathy Lewis

Meditation:

Deb read “A Prayer for World Peace” written by Benedictine nun Joan Chittister.

Blythe described a Muslim teenager selected by classmates as the prom queen in a high school in California. Her classmates were very supportive of her. This was uplifting. She also showed us a newspaper article about an Old Navy ad showing an interracial couple with two children. The article described an initial negative reaction on social media followed by a very supportive reaction which included many interracial families (including the son of Senator John McCain posting a picture of his African American wife) posting photos of their families online.

Treasurer’s Report:

Nancy reported a balance of \$236.30 in our checking account.

Donation for Clark West’s campaign for Loaves and Fishes:

Frank made a motion to donate \$50 on behalf of the CNY EPF Chapter. Blythe seconded the motion. Discussion followed and the vote was in favor of the \$50 donation.

Ithaca Prisoner Justice Network

Joey reported on preparations for Judith Brink’s visit to Ithaca for the Parole seminar on June 17 at St. John’s. Participants can eat lunch at Loaves and Fishes. The workshop will begin at 1 PM in the Chapman room. Blythe suggested cupcakes to lure folks to the Chapman room. Discussion ensued about publicity. Joey will contact Judith about a poster. Nancy volunteered to have it printed and distributed around town.

Prayer Card Project:

John suggested we use a format with ten panels, folding to pocket size. It was agreed that the Baptismal Covenant should be on one panel. We brainstormed prayers we could use. We decided to choose prayers that are relevant to the focus of our group: hunger, environment, prisons, nuclear disarmament, inclusion, peace, social justice, Israel/Palestine. The following prayers were suggested from the Book of Common Prayer:

Contemporary Collect for Social Justice--page 260 #21

For the Human Family--page 815 #3

Prayers for the Social Order: For Social Justice--page 823 #27

Prayers for the Social Order: For Prisoner and Correctional Institutions--page 826 #37

Prayers for the Social Order: For the Conservation of Natural Resources--page 827 #41.

John suggested the Song of Mary might be appropriate and inspiring. He also suggested checking out prayers by Bishop Desmond Tutu. Another source for a prayer especially pertaining to Israel/Palestine is PIN (Palestine/Israel Network) interest group of EPF.

Joan Chittister's prayer is on Worldprayers.org. (http://www.worldprayers.org/archive/prayers/invocations/great_god_who_has_told_us.html)

Nancy suggested that we might use the prayer on the EPF card.

Web Site:

Mike Roman visited our meeting to ask for suggestions for the web site which is part of St. John's web site. Deb suggested putting upcoming events at the top of our page. Discussion ensued about using social media such as Facebook and Twitter to reach a younger audience. Deb and Mike will develop a Facebook profile for EPF that will be accessible to everyone wishing to publicize EPF activities, events, and information. Deb offered to do a training session on social media for anyone who is interested. You can also send Deb or Mike information to share on the page.

Nuclear Disarmament:

Frank put information on white board to help us formulate letters to President Obama.

Dear Mr. President or Dear President Obama

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

- Aim for your goal of a world free from nuclear weapons
- Pledge not to start a nuclear war
- Take our nuclear weapons off of high alert
- Stop the trillion dollar binge plan for modernization of nuclear weapons

Frank hopes the above information will encourage us to write Pres. Obama. Thank you Frank.

Closing Prayer: Deb chose a prayer by Mother Theresa

Adjournment

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2016, 3PM, CHAPMAN ROOM

Respectfully,
Nancy Siemon