

Minutes of EPF Meeting of December 1, 2016

Attendees: Blythe Baldwin, Nancy Siemon, Joey Cardamone, Cathy Lewis, Rhonda Bickford, Matt Sanaker.

Opening Prayer/ Kingdom of God Meditation: Blythe read an article about lack of healthy foods and nutrition for farm workers.

Introduction for Newcomers: Linda acted as chair in Deb Schmidle's absence. She introduced newcomers Matt and Rhonda to our group members. She explained that our EPF chapter focuses on three issues: food justice, Israel/Palestine justice, and criminal justice, mainly solitary confinement.

Reports: Interfaith Prayer Service: Matt Sanaker is planning an interfaith prayer service around the inauguration, Thursday through Saturday, January 19 – January 21, 2017. He is focusing on the thought of “pray without ceasing. He is planning that various groups will lead prayers. More details in January.

Treasurer's report: Nancy reported a balance of \$211.30 in checking and \$14 available in savings. Discussion commenced and a motion passed to send \$50 to Jewish Voices for Peace to support winter supplies for the Standing Rock Sioux action against building an oil pipeline through their land.

Prisoner Justice: Joey reported that Tompkins County is being pressured to expand the jail. TC is not wanting to do this. The issue is that the state does not want more than one inmate per cell. Joey said that one-third of people incarcerated are in jails as opposed to prison. The problem is that many people cannot make the bail payment to be released while awaiting trial. In TC OAR has a bail fund. Joey will email talking points with which to approach the legislature. The 23rd of each month vigil and petition signing at the Tompkins County Library in opposition to solitary confinement continues at 5:00 to 5:30 PM.

Israel/Palestine: Discussion about November study week about this issue by viewing a video, discussion, dinner at Cathy Lewis' home and videos on two evenings with Catholic Workers group. Our members are very willing to join again with Catholic Workers group to continue to study this issue. Blythe commented that Frank hopes we will write Gov. Cuomo to allow the boycott/divestment./sanction movement by organizations receiving state funding or doing business with NYS.

FYI: Muslim Open house at GIAC, 1:00 – 3:00 PM. On December 3, 2016
Our chapter should consider a monthly contribution to PIN (Palestine
Israel Network) group of EPF. Suggested by Frank Baldwin.
Nancy will contact John Jackson about a New Year's Eve Service at St.
John's.
Sunday, December 4, 2016, "Citizen Clark" documentary at Cinemapolis.
December 11, 2016, TC Community Match-up.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully,
Nancy Siemon