

Minutes of EPF Meeting of December 27, 2017

Attendees: John Jackson, Nancy and Ed Siemon, Linda Gaither, Cathy Lewis.

Opening Prayer: Linda lead prayers at Christmas from “Praise God: Common Prayer at Taize.”

Planning and Brainstorming session: Linda proposed that we discuss the format of the meetings and activity plan for January, 2018 through December, 2018.

After much discussion, Linda proposed three time periods for activities:

1. winter through Lent: focus on Poor Peoples’ campaign
2. Easter to June (summer): Bread for the World letter writing
3. Fall through Christmas: focus on Israel/Palestine (Note: Diocesan convention in November)

Activities proposed:

- Bread for the World- connecting with other parishes for letter writing. John suggested that we go to other church services on Sunday, two of us or one with a person we know from that parish, and try to connect with social justice people in that particular church. Hand out Bread kits for offering of letters. If we feel comfortable we could speak at a coffee hour.
- Prisoner Justice: Cathy knows of an interesting film about Rikers Island prison. She suggests an event to use this because it fits into poverty, racial justice issues.
- Guns
- Palestine/Israel

Bread for the World discussion: Connections to churches in Ithaca were discussed including Immaculate Conception, Holy Name, All Saints Catholic Churches, St. Paul’s Methodist, First Baptist, Ithaca. John pointed out that 2018 is the fiftieth anniversary of M.L. King’s death. John attended a gathering of people in Ithaca for the Poor People’s Campaign, lead by William Barber of North Carolina. We discussed connecting with the Poor People’s Campaign in Ithaca. John will explore this and find a person to connect with. We would like to have a person from Poor People’s campaign to attend our January meeting.

Format of Meetings:

- In place of the Kingdom of God exercise that we used at meeting, we decided to focus on a particular theme and research the theme between meetings and then participants could bring their information and prayers on that topic to the next meeting. We decided to focus on the oppressed focusing on the prayer in the BCP, page 826, number 36. The goal is to get intercessory prayer more specific and to get these prayers/thoughts into the Prayers of the People in the regular Sunday service.

- Secondly, the meetings will be project based, working our details, and planning for imminent projects. Other issues can be brought up over email.
- Letter writing: Topics are not assigned. Bring your issues/letter/template to the meeting
 1. group signing of letters: printed letter. Be prepared to give a short explanation.
 2. post cards: very specific, plus or minus 3 sentences.
 3. template: with three talking points that people can take home if they want.

Next Meeting will be Monday, January 22, 2018, at 5:00 PM. St John's Chapman Room. We are hoping to have a representative from the Poor People's Campaign in Ithaca to attend our meeting and give us information about the organization and how we can connect.

Adjourned at 7:00

After the meeting, there was an impromptu discussion about the prayer cards. It was decided that Cathy will take the files to Gnomon and have them work on a printable format, and then have them printed. Too much effort went into the prayer card to drop it. We will find the money to cover it.

Respectfully, Nancy Siemon