

Mary of Magdala Social Justice Committee

April 18, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jean Christen (cochair), Cindy Cloyd, Len Russ, David and Marilou Devlin, John Nystrom, Tom and Lisa Moos

New Members: We welcomed David and Marilou Devlin as new members of the committee. David and Marilou shared some reflections on their move from Wisconsin to Fort Collins and how they came to Mary of Magdala.

Opening Prayer: Jean called the meeting to order at 7:15. Len Russ read an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Jean Christen read the minutes from the last meeting, held Feb 7, after the joint Social Justice meeting with Trinity Lutheran and St Paul's. Minutes approved as read.

Baskets Project: On behalf of co-chair Lisa Jones, Jean reported that the "Baskets of Hope" project conducted during Lent was very successful due to the generosity of our community. The following organizations received donations:

Feb. 24th – Faith, Family and Hospitality: Shampoo and conditioner, wash cloths, toothpaste & toothbrushes, and children's socks.

Mar 11th – Food Bank of Larimer County: Baby food

Mar 18th – Homeless Gear at Mary Alice Murphy House: Ear buds (listening to music); Insect Repellent; Sunscreen; First Aid Kits and Supplies; Batteries; Personal Hygiene items, Duct Tape; Sewing Kits; Shoe Insoles, etc. A letter of acknowledgement was received and passed around for all to read.

Open Streets: On Apr 3, Nick Heimann from the City of Fort Collins attended the joint Social Justice committees meeting to discuss the "Open Streets" event scheduled for Sunday June 3. The city has proposed that our combined churches may wish to participate by putting together some kind of musical, game or other stand(s) for Open Streets participants who stop at the church. David Cloyd is serving as MOM representative on a committee that will review and suggest ideas how our parishes will be involved. More information and a "call for help" to the broader MOM community should become available in May.

Donation Acknowledgements: The executive committee has requested better and timely written acknowledgements of our community's donations to various organizations. Jean proposed a statement and received feedback and edits from the committee. The policy statement we agreed upon is:

We, the social justice committee, make the decisions on how the budgeted funds are to be distributed. The "champion" or person responsible for getting the allotted amount to the charity/cause MUST get an itemized receipt or other written documentation showing how the funds were spent. This should be done within 90 days of the donation.

MOM Tithe Allocations: During 2017, the following funds were distributed by the Social Justice committee:

- FFH: \$1500.00

- WADSO/Nigeria: \$1300.00
- Pine Ridge: \$500.00
- Puerto Rico: \$500.00
- FOCO Cafe: \$200.00
- Islamic Center: \$200

Project "champions" from the Social Justice committee summarized the ongoing activities of their respective organizations and the financial needs for 2018:

- Cindy Cloyd: WADSO is working on grants with Rotary to send 4 containers of supplies to Catholic Missionary hospitals in Nigeria. The grants need to identify donations from other organizations as part of proposing matching grants by Rotary.
- Jean Christen: summarized the 3 focus areas (church overnight, day center, transition house) as well as financial support for a case worker and the executive director.
- Lisa Moos: the involvement with Pine Ridge is changing with increased focus on supporting One Spirit. Lisa would like to have more opportunities to bring work groups to Pine Ridge.
- John Nystrom: discussed Malia orphan house in Kenya. The charity is still working out budget and bylaw details but would be happy to receive some support.
- David Devlin: described the St Vincent De Paul committee within his former parish in Wisconsin, which would respond to needs from the community as well as local townspeople. This precipitated some discussion on reserving some funds to address new, unplanned local needs.

The team proposed and approved the following initial allocations of the \$4200 budget for 2018:

- FFH: \$1500.00 (\$1000 to be spent up front for FFH support and \$500 to be retained until later for the transition housing)
- WADSO: \$1300.00
- Pine Ridge: \$500.00
- Reserve: \$900 for local use and for Malia House

Approval of the proposal was moved and seconded.

FFH Volunteers for May 6 - 13: Jean noted that we still need cooks. There was also a brief discussion whether it might make more sense for MOM to become a support parish for Trinity Lutheran.

Closing Prayer: Meeting closed at 8:20 pm with praying the Our Father

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Moos