

Social Justice Action Committee January 6, 2015

Revised minutes January 8, 2015

Present Anne Marinello, Bob Williamson, Jackie Fischer, Akankha Perkins, Wendy Smith

#### Announcements

Bob spoke of "Gunned Down" airing on Vermont PBS 10 PM tonight. It is a Frontline special about the NRA. It should be available online. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/>

Bob also referenced that a new bill is being introduced to the judiciary committee in Montpelier January 14th on expanded background checks. Gunsense is hoping a lot of folks will contact their reps to support this.

Woodstock public library is having a workshop on how to write letters to state law makers. tel: [\(802\) 457-2295](tel:8024572295) (I was unable to get a date from library. They offered to check and call back)

Jackie spoke of an announcement for the January committee cafe that will run also  
In Touch:

Creating Common Good, Trinity Institute 2015's webcast will be at St. James, broadcasting from Trinity Church in New York Jan 22 - 25. The bulk of the conference will be on Friday and Saturday. It is a conference about economic equality featuring prominent speakers. One can register at St. James.

About: <http://www.trinitywallstreet.org/trinity-institute/2015/home>

Jackie also spoke of the "Green" Pizza group. This group spun off of the Climate Change March in New York City. It has people from NUCS and elsewhere in our local community. It initially met around our brick pizza oven on Wednesdays evenings in late summer. It is focused on an ongoing community response.

Jackie also did some preliminary research on climate change. She found the UUA has a great deal of information that can be of help.

#### New items

Peter Rousmaniere resigned after months of excellent service. He will be missed.

We need to look at our goals and redefine what we are doing.

1. The planning committee found climate change was an issue raised by people responding to our chapel's Planning Survey.

How can we respond to this without losing our umbrella for supporting several issues such as food justice and gun violence? What does our committees scope include?

\*The planning committee was clear that climate change is a focus to be included in all

committees not just our social justice group.

\*The response is to be measured, over the next 3-4 years of the planning process, not just a quick response.

\*During the Committee Cafe it was mentioned that Daniel may provide a major leadership role around climate change during his last four months with us.

2. What are other churches and the synagogue doing in terms of social justice?

- What areas of expertise are there?

  - Bob mentioned Shir Shalom of West Woodstock

- What can we do in the way of coordination?

- We need to coordinate where possible

3. What is the best way for our committee to respond to issues? It needs to be thought through. We need to coordinate, be open to people in our church, provide leadership. The thought is to have an after service meeting open to all during coffee hour. We need someone comfortable leading a dialogue about our scope.

Anne Marinello adds: During the 7 PM meeting with everyone when Denise talked about the big plan for the church...and that the planning committee is going to spend some time thinking about the social justice piece and how to approach it. Given this perspective, SJC should wait until after our annual meeting and connect with Denise and Richard in developing an approach to both climate change and how not to lose other SJ initiatives. We don't have to wait for Daniel to return.

Other thoughts were of doing a beginning of year annual assessment to evaluate how we are doing. Another was to have an yearly report from Sally Miller from Sustainable Woodstock.

Submitted by Wendy A Smith