

Homewood Peace and Social Justice Committee

Minutes for January 2019 – FOR APPROVAL

Attending: Debbie Cooper, Peter Phalen, Louise Hopkins, Jody Hopkins, Phil Furness, Jo Brown, Barbara Bezdek, Kathryn Munnell

The meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Anti-Violence work-

1. Ceasefire 360 - In discussing anti-violence work, Jo Brown reminded us that Baltimore Ceasefire has two prongs: one urges people not to shoot anyone in the 72 hours of the weekend of each quarterly called ceasefire, and the other is the still under-developed Peace Challenge, to build peace actively. We continue to consider how to deepen our committee's awareness and contribution to this effort. Jo encouraged people to work cross-culturally. In doing so she said we need to stay calm, show humility and not be afraid to make mistakes.
2. Homewood will hold a Cease Fire vigil on February 2. Members of the committee will encourage people in the meeting to attend the event. Members from Hinenu, a Jewish worship group, which uses the Meeting house on Friday evenings, will join the vigil. Afterward, Jo and another Ceasefire ambassador will speak at the Hinenu service about the Peace Challenge.
3. Office Space for Cease Fire- Jo reported that Ceasefire is seeking office space- It was suggested that they might use the Vera Shank room. This will provide an opportunity for the Homewood congregation to become acquainted the Ceasefire ambassadors.
 - Minute: Kathryn will discuss the room's availability and cost with Mina.
 - Jo will clarify with CeaseFire what there needs are as to schedule, space, furniture.
4. The Friday night vigil. The question arose: Does holding the Black Lives Matter, We are All One People vigil reduce violence? The committee is trying to determine if the vigil remains worthwhile in light of its scant participation by the Meeting community. Is the message not expressive of Homewood community, is the timing and character an impediment, do people need reminders more than the weekly announcements and if so how to accomplish same (without leaving communication to the clerk).
 - It was reiterated that the vigil does testify to the value of black lives and it is valuable that as a corporate witness it helps to disrupt stereotypes.
 - We got no traction (again) on the other logistical features.
5. Further Actions we might take to work on Peace building. Several suggestions were raised for increasing our intentionality in peace building efforts:
 - 1) Get out and work with other committed peace builders eg Baltimore Ceasefire.
 - 2) Offer/help pay for office space for Baltimore Ceasefire
 - 3) hold public events demonstrating peacebuilding from a Quaker perspective.
 - a. A point we need to develop: what resources do we have, what real training can we assemble from among Quakers, and elsewhere.
 - 4) hold a TED talk series for Young Adult Friends and Hopkins students
 - 5) Bring in facilitator like Daresha Harris to hold sessions with Meeting on racial inclusion, multicultural peace working

Anti- Racism/ racial equity work

1. Meeting with AFSC Southern Region Representative. This meeting is now set for February 10, 2019 at 1 pm. Jacob Flowers, head of the Southern Region of AFSC based in Atlanta, will be here to hold a discussion about how Baltimore Meetings and AFSC can rekindle a strong relationship, with a concern for activities/programs to build racial justice and peace in Baltimore after Friend of a Friend is devolved. We would like for AFSC to open a robust Baltimore office to help facilitate developing strong racial relations as an outreach.
 - Minute: Barbara will contact Stony Run and Gun Powder Meetings to see if they would like to send reps to the session.

2. The Homewood working group on racial inclusion met a couple of times in 2018 and has not forged a clear trajectory. Should this committee take it over? The outreach committee is doing partly overlapping work. Members were reminded of the opportunity to attend the BYM Change Group workshop mid-January facilitated by Amanda Kemp, but no one from Homewood was able to attend. The view of the Outreach committee was reported to be more expansive than a special focus on race in making people welcome in our Meeting. We did not reach resolution, and agreed to revisit following the AFSC meeting.

JHU Nurses Petition

1. Both Phil Furness and Jody Hopkins presented their research on the situation of nurses at JHU who seek better JHH support for work conditions and patient care for indigents. They discussed the requests of the Nurses: stop turnover by increasing staff. But they questioned why nurses aren't in dialogue with the medical school?

Minute: The committee decided we will not take on this issue for a corporate minute, but approved preparation of a letter by Jody and Phil that individual Friends may opt to send. They will touch base with Bob Goren and Marc Oliver at Stony Run Meeting Peace committee re their action on this issue, as they called it to our attention earlier this year.

Recorded by Kathryn Munnell