



Meeting Minutes 4.13.21

In attendance: Sue Blain, Kafi Brown, Amanda Erickson, Beth Gray, John Hisle, Ashley Klick, Rosemary Lyon, Maria Race, Mary Lou Rife, Jeanne Rossomme, Nancy Sanow, Tom Urban

Chair: Amanda Erickson, amanda.erickson@gmail.com

I. Welcoming Prayer:

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end starvation; For You have already given us the resources with which to feed the entire world, if we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice; For You have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all people, if we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair; For You have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope, if we would only use our power justly.

Therefore we pray to You instead, O God, for strength, determination and will power,

To **do** instead of just pray,

To **become** instead of merely to wish.

II. Introductions

We spent time introducing ourselves and sharing: where we live (DC, MD, VA), what issues we are concerned about with regard to advocacy, and advocacy experience. We have a good mix of geography and experience!

Affordable housing, environmental justice and immigration were the highlighted topics with interest in food insecurity, evictions, job placement, civil rights, health disparities, LGBTQ+ rights, and children included as interests.

III. Efforts to Date

- Washington Interfaith Network. Holy Trinity is an “official” member of WIN. If you have not signed up to receive alerts, Amanda encourages you to do so. [Sign up here](#) There are several opportunities to learn more about WIN and their efforts. These are highlighted at the end of the minutes.
- The HT Migrant Team has established a subcommittee focused on advocacy. Maria Race, Ellen Touns and Jeanne Rossomme are working to establish a directory of contacts (DC/MD/VA) and Maria is working on a one page overview of Holy Trinity. The efforts of this group have been targeted on eviction in MD, Social Security cards/ICE in VA, and a #saveasylum effort with the Kino Border Initiative.
- The HT Green Team recently hosted representatives of climate justice organizations in MD and VA. Members participated in a campaign around the Transportation and Safety Act in MD. We also drafted a letter that Fr. Kevin sent to the Maryland Council of Bishops encouraging them to prioritize climate bills.

IV. Next Steps/Where do we go from here

Attendees discussed the need to be hyper focused on our efforts, and we also recognized the need to educate ourselves on the current efforts at WIN. Coalition building with other Catholic churches was also highlighted as a priority. Suggestions:

- Attend an upcoming WIN meeting
- Invite WIN to return to speak about their expectations of our membership
- Identify speakers/advocacy training
- Meet and greet with Ward Council member
- Reach out to other Catholic churches to invite them to share their advocacy work; perhaps organize a planning/sharing meeting
 - Sacred Heart- Amanda cana reach out
 - St. Augustine's
 - Holy Redeemer
 - St. Camillus
 - St. Joseph (Alexandria) - need contact
 - St. Matthew's - Amanda cana reach out
 - National Shrine- need contact

We agreed that there were parallel tracks to pursue: 1) understanding the WIN opportunities and our role and 2) building relationships with Georgetown churches and other Catholic churches.

ACTION:

1. Sign up for the WIN newsletter and look for emails for new opportunities to engage (see below for event dates **SIGN UP [HERE!](#)**
2. Relationship building. If you have a contact at a church listed above or would like to work on building relationships, please let Ashley know.

V. Events

“A Politics Rooted in the People” Conference on April 15, 2021

You are invited to a half-day convening of grassroots leaders, community organizers and academics responding to Pope Francis' call for “a politics rooted in the people” in his recent book *Let Us Dream*, published in December 2020. The international gathering will take place online on April 15, 2021 (11 am–3 pm Eastern Time, 10 am–2 pm Central Time, 8 am–12 pm Pacific Time).

The aim of the gathering is to help the Church respond at all levels to Pope Francis' call for engagement with popular movements, which in the Global North are often formed and advanced through broad-based community organizing, and to ensure that such engagement flows from the heart of the Church's life and prayer.

The gathering will be convened by the Centre for Theology and Community in London, in partnership with Catholic institutions in the United States, European Union and United Kingdom.

There is no cost for the event and no advanced registration is needed to observe the gathering on YouTube and participate via webchat. A full announcement and program details are available at www.letusdreamconference.org, where a YouTube link will also be provided in the week of the event.

WIN EVENTS

April 24: Bridging the River at Reservation 13

10:30a - 11:30a, [Sign up here](#)

Imagining a Just Green Future Workshop

April 29, 6:30-7:30pm

Join members of the Washington Interfaith Network and the Sierra Club as we build a more powerful and inclusive movement toward a green future. Our vision involves creating equitable green jobs, electrifying housing and maintaining affordability, and building a coalition of DC residents at the forefront of change. Come along as we continue to imagine a green future, while outlining how we get there. [Register](#)

Building Your Dream Team Series

May 10, 2021 06:45 PM | May 24, 2021 06:45 PM | Jun 7, 2021 06:45 PM

VI. Resources

- [Details on Reservation 13](#)
- [Temple Courts Effort from Holy Redeemer](#)
- Kafi also shared information about Life Pieces to Masterpieces. Here is the [link to learn more!](#)

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray for the poorest and most vulnerable. Let us not just speak of justice, but let us act in just ways. May the oppressed and needy feel justice and equality and experience a world without hunger and poverty.