

Minutes from Grace Racial and Environmental Action Team Zoom Meeting July 25th 6:30-7:30 PM

Present -Ann Crockett, Sibby Tower, Jeffrey Ewen, Yetunde Laniran, Carolyn Brown, Gary Voice, Bill Cassidy, Rev. Judith Meckling, Jo Ann Fricker and Deacon Liz Klein

- 1) Open with Prayer- Liz shared Prayer for Humankind by Sheryl A. Kujawa-Hollbrook
- 2) Determine NAME of this team around Grace Memorial Racial Reconciliation, Justice and Education of our congregants and community- We considered several names. We talked about whether to include Grace Memorial Episcopal Church in our name.

Grace Racial and Environmental Action Team was voted on and approved.

Other names considered included Racial and Climate Justice Team, Grace Action for Justice, Grace Acts for Climate and Justice, Grace Works for Justice

- 3) Determine Mission of this team- We did not decide this tonight. We wanted to have more time to discuss and process what our mission might be.

Jeff talked about the idea of being a resource and trying to match the time and expertise of Grace Memorial members with opportunities for service in the broader community.

Bill and Liz spoke about meeting with St Michaels and All Angels Episcopal Church leader of their Creation Care team and trying to coordinate with them and other churches and groups in the area.

Rev. Judith Meckling clarified the term Creation Care. This has become a term used by many, but also not known universally. Our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has made Creation Care, the concern for earth's climate and care, a priority. "The Episcopal Church's Covenant for the Care of Creation is a commitment to practice loving formation, liberating advocacy and life-giving conservation as individuals, congregations, ministries and dioceses."

Ideas regarding Mission 1) Promote increased awareness, education and action surrounding racial justice and climate change to members of Grace Memorial and the surrounding community.

2) Connect with others to address the intersection of racial justice and environmental action.

People are encouraged to submit ideas to all and we can consider them at our next meeting.

4) Update on projects- 1) Racial Justice Book Collection and display. Ann spoke of having book plates to put in our books. We are planning to put the books in the hallway going to the Parish Hall. Ann has information from Robin Gault about a check out system. This will be a work in progress. We decided on the name **Anne North Book Library** in honor of Anne North, who died August 2022. She was a Grace Memorial parishioner and librarian who fought for racial justice her whole life.

2) Supporting local Indigenous people- Bill spoke about a wonderful indigenous art fair that is happening at Blue Lake this summer. He wrote a piece for the Grace Notes this week. People were encouraged to let others know about other activities going on. We talked about having something in the Grace Notes monthly.

3) Creation Care group – Bill and Liz met with Cheryl Braginsky from STMAA. Bill spoke of the importance of action items that are effective and time efficient for our parishioners. Interfaith Power and Light is a wonderful group that people can join and learn more about environmental issues and care of our creation.

4) Supporting local businesses- Carolyn and Yetunde spoke about the need to support all local businesses. We talked about having a bulletin board near the parish hall with local events and businesses.

5) Barbie's village- Liz agreed to contact Chris at Westminster Presbyterian about next steps.

Grace Racial and Environmental Action Team- Possible Logo



Another one that Carolyn saw at Westminster-



Next Meeting 8/22/23 6:30-7:30 PM (This maybe Vestry Meeting) Consider 8/29/23

Liz concluded with a brief prayer of thanksgiving for the members of this committee and the listening and caring and participation of all the members tonight.

Please let me know about errors or changes in these minutes. Blessings, Liz