

Church and Society Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2018

In attendance: Pem Dunn, Ann Gerteis, Bill Graf, Susan Roberts, Robin Roberts, Donna Mullins, Pastor Russell Fletcher, Clyde Sacks, Jan Thurling, Jeanne Ambrosier, Katie Zapotoczny

Meeting Chairperson: Ann Gerteis

Report on the meeting sponsored by the Christian Church concerning gender identity and sexuality

- Meeting held on March 6 and attended by Jan, Clyde, Bill, and Gayla Michelin
- Facilitated by Heather Ning Aberly and Pastor Denny (?) of the Christian Church.
- Goal was to raise awareness and to allow participants to share their stories.
- Presentation included three teens who are all on various places on the “sexuality spectrum” as well as a screening of two TED Talks that featured a transgender man (a female who had transitioned to a male) and a woman who is gay.
- There was general agreement among attendees that the meeting was well organized and that it provided opportunities for all attendees to learn more about various gender identities and about homosexuality.
- There will be another, similar meeting on April 11, 6-7:30, at Lariat Lodge; this meeting will be open for all ages

Update on JOY International

- Jan noted that the work of this group falls under four of the Church and Society focus areas: Human Rights, Women and Children, Health and Wholeness, and Peace with Justice.
- Jan called JOY International and spoke with the office manager, Laurie Rogers (Dr. Jeff Brodsky is currently in Cambodia)
- Glen Stall confirmed with Jan that Sept. 8 or Oct. 6 would work for Dr. Brodsky to come speak to the Men’s Group; this presentation would be open to women in the church, too.
- Jan will confirm that Dr. Brodsky can speak on one of these dates when he returns
- JOY International organizes Barefoot Mile events (<https://www.thebarefootmile.org/>) around the country; there are two Barefoot Miles in CO this year: June 9 in Colorado Springs and July 21 in Littleton.
- There was some discussion about trying to organize a Barefoot Mile in the Mountain Area after Dr. Brodsky speaks at UMCE.
- Dr. Brodsky spoke to the Men’s Group in Sept. 2014, but, as we have had many new members join UMCE since then and the nature of JOY International’s work has changed somewhat since then, there was agreement that it would be informative for him to speak again.
- Church and Society would help prepare the breakfast for this Men’s Group meeting.

Focus Areas and Adult Education for 2018-19

JOY International

- Raise awareness of and support JOY International through Dr. Brodsky's presentation to the Men's Group and possible organization of a Barefoot Mile

Mountain Area Backpack Program

- Recommit to the Mountain Area Backpack Program (organized by the Luther Church on 73 and the Rotary Club).
- Jeanne put information in the Happenings about the Backpack Program's Easter collection and had a positive response.
- There are now about 130 families that are enrolled in this program.

Family Movie Night

- Scheduled for April 27
- Movie suggestions: *Wonder*, *Cocoa*, *Wrinkle in Time*; *Cocoa* may be the best choice, as it emphasizes the themes of honoring heritage and helping others; all are welcome to preview any or all of these movies and give feedback
- Ann suggested having some kind of activity for kids to do between dinner and the movie (coloring sheets, someone to sing with the kids), as kids got rowdy at the last Movie Night
- There was a delay in starting the movie last time, due to technical issues.
- Bill mentioned that he is going to speak to the Membership Team about installing a screen over the entrance to the narthex from the Fellowship Hall that would be part of an integrated audio/visual system; this would hopefully eliminate/cut back on future technical issues
- ACTION ITEM: Determine how to play the movie for the April Movie Night
- ACTION ITEM: advertise through Next Door Evergreen, Canyon Courier, EChO, and with signs

Adult Education

- Report on A Way Forward (in mid-Sept?)- Council of Bishops will be releasing their recommendations to the 2019 Special General Conference in July 2018
- We would like to cover one Social Principal per month on the fourth Sunday of the month, if possible (possibly excluding November and December)
- Jeanne will ask Jerry Hershapes if he would be willing to speak in Adult Education; this class would represent Economic Justice, as Mr. Hershapes works with the homeless community in Denver.
- We also discussed inviting members of UMCE, the mountain community, and/or District or Conference experts, as appropriate, to speak
- This would be a total of seven Church and Society related classes throughout 2018-19.
- Class facilitators to be determined at the April meeting.

Next meeting: April 17, 6:30 pm; Chairperson for April meeting: Bill Graf (or Ann Gerteis)
Submitted by Katie Zapotoczny on March 22, 2018