

Church of the Palms
Social Justice Action Team
December 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes
Presiding: John Durbin
Note taker: Nancy Mueller

Attendees: John Durbin, Nancy Nonini, Max Klinkenborg, Larry Cornelius, Nancy Mueller, Linda Hofmann; New members and guests: Ruth Humes, Phil Ladd, Georgia Fieste (Georgia will lead the LGBTQ subcommittee)

On the Bridge to Learning-Beth Moore, Linda Hofmann, guest Nancy Esty

1. John Durbin opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Guests were introduced.
3. Notes from the October meeting were accepted. Thank you to Nancy.
4. Subcommittee reports

a. Othering and Belonging – John for David Klingensmith

John thanked David Klingensmith for his leadership. Due to other commitments David will leave this position. The Volunteer Engagement Committee is looking for a replacement

b. Creation Justice – Beth Moore

Because of the church's carbon footprint study, a number of changes were made to the church. One was the solar panels installation in Feb 2022. This was funded by special gifts from members. At this one-year anniversary approaches, it is time to study the savings. In 2023 the team plans to study water and plastic use

c. Homelessness –

I-HELP – Nancy Mueller

Max and Nancy attended LSS's 1st annual Success celebration for the West Valley. Renee, Carolyn, Henry and Tracey, were among the 8 graduates. 15 COTP volunteers attended the recognition breakfast hosted by Lakeview United Methodist for the Northwest Valley churches. John Claibone is a new night monitor and Ray Larson is a new bus driver. Both positions require background check and finger printing. VOLUNTEERS - November – 176 hours and 26 volunteers. Kurt Hofmann has retired and Vickie Ashenbrenner has moved. Both were part of the planning teams 4 years ago and supported the program in a variety of ways. Christmas gift bags will be presented on Dec. 19. A Non-profit company is working with IHELP to provide finance education and computer assistance to the guests.

Feet N More --Max Klinkenborg

Feb 2023 will be 2 years, with 1750 showers given so far. The trailer is set up at Salvation Army, Kitzo, Church of the Palms, The Grove (asylum seekers) and will start on December 10 at Experience Church, Glendale, which has a large Hispanic population. Haircuts are offered, toiletries and socks given away. Three men from Deep

Within assisted our team to erect a storage shed for shower trailer equipment and supplies. It is positioned inside the patio walls. The trailer was part of the City of Surprise's Veteran's Day parade. The trailer had a flat tire on the way to the Grove and it now has 2 new tires.

d. Criminal Justice/Prison Reform - Nancy Nonini

Pen Pal program for Perryville women inmates on October 17 brought in a few new volunteers. A video from those released talking about the importance a letter was created. COTP is invited to the reentry stimulation presented by Arouet. It will be held at Dove of the Desert on January 28. 100 Christmas cards were sent to Perryville. Birthday cards continue. Training to Request to Speak will be Saturday January 14 from 10-12. A book study on "Just Mercy" will be planned for spring.

e. Palestinian Human Rights/Tent of Nations – Beth Moore

Beth traveled with members of Friends of Tent of Nations to Palestine for 3 weeks to help with the olive harvest. 25 others from around the world were there. 52 gallons of olive oil were pressed. Pilgrimage visits to the Holy Land including Tent of Nations have increased. There were over 1000 visitors in October 2022. The October 27 re-registration of Daoud's farm was postponed to November and then to January 16, 2023.

In a discussion about the rollout of the Movie BOYCOTT by Just Vision, 1 or 2 discussions sessions may follow. It is also possible that Dauod could zoom with us. A third session might include another speaker from Tent of Nations North American or an Arizona supporter.

f. Neighbors in Need – Linda Hoffman

The Executive Director sent a response to our recent donations that said, "it is with joy and gratitude for all your partnership. You have made a practical difference in many meaningful way to help break the cycle of poverty" Wednesday Dec 14 5-7 is the Christmas party. Donations are requested for toys, puzzles, clothing of all sizes. Mo continues on the first Wednesday of every month with food distribution. Jane Lane is organizing reading and games after school once week. Mo sings with the after school program Mondays.

g. Immigration/Refugee - Larry Cornelius

Title 42 remains in place. There is a push to give informed consent to immigrants for relocation, which is giving notice to TX and FL governors. IRC is informing migrants that it is legal to request asylum. Trans people are being discriminated in their home countries

and at the border. There is a continued need for winter coats, hoodies, men's jeans and work clothes and shoes for everyone.

h. LGBTQ –

Georgia will keep us informed of the next Pride Parade and other ways we can continue to support this group.

4. Other

- Joanna Esty presented an opportunity for COTP to participate in a Spanish perspective of culture and belonging. It will look at identity and immigration, how we judge based on color of skin, clothes, and music. Sessions will be January –March. It may be possible to offer this to COTP members.
- January 24, 2023 Point In Time Count for Homeless needs volunteers for the 6am-noon count. Contact janae.mitchell@surpriseaz.gov or 623-222-3242 to volunteer. Information helps determine needs and fund services.
- November Palm Leaf or bulletin articles:
 - Request to Speak training– Nancy Nonini
 - Reentry simulation – Nancy Nonini
 - Dysart Community Center needs – Linda Hofmann
- Next meeting date: January 13, 2023 at 1 pm.