

Criminal Justice Task Force / Criminal Justice Ministries
Joint Meeting
3/9/20
People's Choice Restaurant
575 Brooks Ave.
Rochester, NY

Present: Shanique, Roberta, Shirl, Jo, Betty, Cheryl, Mark, Ellen, John, Louise, Michael, Kathleen

1. Welcome and Introductions (5 min)
2. Speaker: Kathleen presented on being a more effective ally, followed by group discussion. Discussion: the need for more young people to be involved in RocACTS and the struggle; how can we do more, with whatever we are doing; how can we move from “actors” and “allies” to “accomplices?” The effects of redlining in real estate can be addressed in the towns where we live where it is still in effect, even if de facto. Shanique suggests that we could get yard signs and talk to our neighbors about what we are doing. Betty suggests each of us think of someone – or more than one – we can refer to her for one-on-ones to see if the person wants to activate in this work. Let’s consider this discussion as the start of an ongoing process for each of us to move ourselves from actors and allies to accomplices.
3. Letters: We sorted through letters received from incarcerated people by Tocsin Magazine in an effort to provide appropriate responses. If you take some to sort, please get them back to Shanique asap. Shanique is presenting at CORE and when she was there recently, there was a lot of interest in Tocsin among people there. Hopefully, we can build on this interest there and in similar settings. We need to go where people are. If you weren’t at the meeting but want to help with these letters, please contact Shanique. Responding to these letters is significant – Michael received responses from people to whom we sent cards and one man mentioned that he has not received any other mail in 4 years. We signed a few more cards tonight. When Michael sends me a copy of the response, it will go out to the list.
4. Dinner: We conducted the meeting over dinner and received some bonus cornbread muffins (biscuits?).
5. Reminder: Howie is available as a speaker to share his experiences being a Freedom Rider in 1964. Please contact him at: Hkirschenb@aol.com. He will talk to groups or classes about his experiences in the civil rights movement.

6. Reminder: John will connect us with training for non-partisan training for voter registration in May.
7. Reminder: Michael will send a report on the H.A.L.T. Advocay Day and this will be distributed.
8. Feedback: We stayed at People's Choice until closing and had to scramble out, and feedback was not processed, however several participants said it was a good meeting.

We meet the second Monday of each month. Next meeting: April 13, 6:00 pm, we plan to meet at CORE, 803 West Ave., Suite 196. Need a volunteer to confirm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shanique Byrd and Kathleen FitzPatrick, Co-Chairs
With Penny Townsend-Quill, Roberta Buckle, John Keevert
Criminal Justice Ministry, First Unitarian Church