

RJI Steering Committee Meeting Minutes February 2019

Attending: Mike G., Regina, Nathalie, Denny, Mary

- BLUU panel discussion:
 - Feb 10 Small group attending, not widely advertised due to quick timing after panel
 - Mary will work to plan another discussion opportunity to discuss BLUU panel and to discuss the play Niceties that many UUCWC members attended at McCarter Theater in past couple weeks. The group thought we could combine these discussions into one, rather than 2 separate groups. Mary is going to reach out to Rev Kim and Loren McAlister about the Niceties discussion, who attended the play and mentioned an interest in a discussion group about this play. Will see if Loren is willing to help lead discussion of Niceties.
- Feb 26 council meeting: We plan to review 8th principle feedback received responding to three questions: (1) have you discussed the 8th principle (2) concerns about the 8th? (3) How can RJI support your group to live the 8th principle? We discussed how to present these results at council and next steps. Nathalie suggested having a couple of people submitting responses discuss their conversations and work with their committees to the larger group. Mary will reach out to a couple of these people prior to council to propose this. We discussed beginning to build RJI liasons with the various committees and RJI to provide more direct outreach, using 8th principle responses and praxis ideas to see what support steering members can offer each group. Mary and Dan are going to have a call to discuss this plan in the coming week.
- Robin has proposed offering a White Fragility ARE discussion group starting in April/May. It is meant as a 3 session group to take place after reading the book. Heather Edwards, who participated in and then facilitated a Beloved Conversations group offered to be a co-facilitator. Regina volunteered to facilitate with Heather.
- Living the 8th principle meetings. Nathalie has designed the course and she and Chris have been facilitating. Nathalie, Mike, and Denny (who are currently in the course) thought that two current members of the course (out of the 12) would be able to take the developed curriculum and run the course in the coming year, Sept/Oct – April/May. We will need to work on this to see which of the participants are willing to facilitate in the coming year. Regina suggested this could potentially continue like this – that each round, two participants become the facilitators for the coming year.
- Cross-currents publications: We discussed ideas for upcoming articles including: March possible article about the connections and distinctions between CFA/FAM/ and RJI if we can get the meeting to discuss this completed; April: article about volunteering options that current church members are engaged in and others could be involved in, including Denny and others, such as volunteering at the TASK soup kitchen once a month; May: Mike write up about

his experience in Living the 8th principle to encourage participation in next round

- We discussed other ways for church members to build awareness of groups that we already support through CFA and ways to support these groups hands-on as well as ways to keep informed of what needs these groups have, such as the I am Trenton group.
- Process for RJI steering committee addition of new members. We discussed adding members/ allowing members to step back in the summer with the change of fiscal year. We hope to have committee spots open to church members, but consider the participation of those interested in past and current racial justice/internal racism processing work.
- Nathalie suggested we set up a time to come discuss our work with the Board, to keep them informed
- Endowment grant 18-19: Barbara and Robin currently engaged in setting date for Christina Rivera to come speak
- Endowment grant 19-20: Sallie emailed that there may not be endowment funds this year. Wait until next meeting to discuss further.
- There is a netflix series that Ava Duverney is putting out about the Central Park 5 -- the date this will be released is unclear, but sometime this year. I talked briefly with Mike about maybe offering this as a discussion group - with each session watching one of the episodes and then discussing after.
- Feb 12 joint CFA/RJI/FAM meeting to be rescheduled discuss our collaborations and what our roles are. I will plan to discuss shared use of faithinaction listserv.