

Social Responsibility Committee Meeting  
Minutes, UCM, January 3, 2016

In attendance were: Ginnie Humphreys and Irina Markova, co-chairs, Rev. Joan Javier-Duval, Ansel Ploog, Mike McCleese, Fran Krushenick, Hedi Ballantyne, Maryann Ludlow, Diane Fitch, Vicky Viens, Margaret Blanchard, Linda Leonard, Mark A. Hughes, and Harris Webster.

Meeting was opened by Ginnie Humphreys with a candle lighting and reading at 11:35 AM. Introductions all around followed with new emails recorded and each person suggesting their highest priorities. Irina then ran the meeting from a stated agenda that identified specific topics. These included the need for efforts to help with Syrian Refugees, the organizing of a benefit concert to support the refugees by Michael Arnowitz, 350VT, Heifer International, Food Pantry, Monday noon community meal, Black Lives Matter, need for a new Soc. Resp. Committee flyer and a web site, or sub web presence on the UCM web, children in detention, Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA).

Upcoming events were mentioned with concerns about how to get out the word. Vicky volunteered to explore ways to add SRC news to the new church web site while working with Joan. Hedi mentioned the long time interest in pea soup making with Rhoda Chickering, a one-time event. Joan noted the event she has organized for Martin Luther King's birthday, Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at which time AmeriCorps volunteers will provide the usual community lunch at our kitchen to be followed by a teach-in on race relations. A message from Amy Tatko stated that she will be supporting Aids Awareness efforts. Mark Hughes introduced us to an organization he has co-founded called Justice for All, also dealing with racial issues and providing safe communities for all. There is a planned event with the Peace and Justice Center in September dealing with racial privilege and building empathy. Joan also mentioned a series of seven sessions starting on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> at the Old Meeting House sponsored by Faith in Action, an ecumenical group of various Central VT churches.

With the huge number of issues identified, it was generally decided that the Soc. Resp. Committee should not try to take everything on, but rather be an umbrella organization helping to educate the congregation and providing a mechanism for all members to add their support to issues with which they personally identify. We will be open and inclusive.

The question was asked: How do we focus on an issue and move forward? The answer included making sure there is a designated point person for each issue. The following issues will have as point persons:

Syrian Refugee Resettlement—Diane Fitch	new SRC brochure—Ansel Ploog
Arnowitz Concert—Irina Markova	UUSC contact and Heifer Intl.—Hedi Ballantyne
SRC web presence—Vicky Viens	Black Lives Matter & related issues--Mark Hughes
VIA & Food shelf—Harris Webster	Mike McCleese—Rainbow Umbrella
MLK lunch and presentation—Rev. Joan Javier-Duval	Others to be decided next meeting.

Mary Alice Bisbee mentioned that she will no longer be the point person for the VT Funeral Consumers Alliance as she is no longer on their board. Tentative scheduling of future once/month meetings of the entire SRC were stated as: **Sunday, after church on Feb. 7, March 6 and April 10** with the idea that other sub group meetings may be scheduled by the point persons above as needed. Meeting adjourned around 12:45PM.

Respectfully submitted, *Mary Alice Bisbee*

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