

Social Justice Ministry Annual Report – Dec 2009

We met monthly starting with a Bible reading and ending with prayer. Issues pertinent to Social Justice and “walking humbly with the Lord” were discussed, prayed, laughed and cried about during the meetings. From these meetings we moved to actions:

CUCC members participated in various demonstrations and educational events beyond our walls.

The Social Justice Ministry organized CUCC participation in:

- Bread for the World “Hunger no More” Conference on February 27-28.
- HK on J Feb 14
- Bread for the World Offering of Letters in May

There was an emphasis on the Congo during the year. The following occurred

- Rally in Raleigh pulled together the Congolese community and focused on the humanitarian needs; several CUCC and KCC members participated in a group of ~ 200 people.
- The Lenten series “All Things Congo” provided activities to teach about the Congo, including history and food.
- There were also opportunities for smaller groups to tell their stories and for individuals to get to know one another better.
- Dr. Nsongola, Professor of African Studies at UNC Chapel Hill headlined the series with a lecture.
- Part of this series included a discussion on climate change in the Congo by Dr S Mozley.

A new effort to study Economic Justice was initiated:

- We endorsed a resolution to the Southern Conference and the General Synod that the UCC become an Economic Justice Church and offer opportunities for the congregation to wrestle with this issue.
- The congregation voted in May to send a letter supporting the Economic Justice Covenant Resolution at General Synod. The resolution passed in the General Synod.
- A series of discussions during Lent open to the congregation will be offered using Agenda for a New Economy by David Korten as a resource.
- There is interest in working on an Economic Justice Covenant.

We discussed NC Community College Admission for Undocumented Qualified Students.

- We wrote letters to endorse admission.
- When the Community College board voted unanimously minus Lt Gov Walter Dalton, we helped the congregation write thank you cards to all board members who voted in the affirmative.

LGBT Center of Raleigh (514 Daniels Street #152, Raleigh, North Carolina 27605).

- We became a founding member of this new organization in town. Several people from CUCC participated in their “Coming Out” celebration day.

The Justice in a Changing climate committee

- Marty Lamb hosted another successful “Thinking Green in the Bleak Mid-winter” study series in early 2009 and a group reunion in September. She continues from time to time to e-mail updates of information to those who have participated in the groups in 2008 and 2009 to support our continued energy at reducing our carbon footprints at home.
- We met with Steve Jackson to discuss NC transportation and public transit issues. Other congregations were invited as well.
 - Transportation system accounts for roughly 30% of our CO₂ emissions. It’s the single largest source after electric power, and the state legislature is now considering ways to promote public transportation to reduce this transportation CO₂ burden.
 - Steve spoke of how transportation policy connects to climate and of some ways North Carolina can build a better transportation system – one that benefits both rural and urban parts of the state.
- Wake County Wake Human Services has a program to provide or purchase electric fans for households requesting them through their WCHS Case Worker/Social Worker/Case Manager. There is a great demand. This fits well within our remit to aid those with less income who are impacted by climate change. The JCC sent \$200 to the program, and CUCC members matched this personally. This would provide ~ 30 fans.
- Seminary Student Tama Eller at Columbia Seminary near Atlanta worked with us during the 2nd half of the year and is writing her final seminary document on the committee and its members.
- The JCC is working on a way to help the congregation participate in the NCIPL weatherization program to insulate low-income homes.

We gave donations to the following organizations: NC Interfaith Power (NCIPL) and Light, Capital Area Friends of Transit (CAFT), American Friends Service Committee, Fellowship of Reconciliation, NC Peace Action, NC State Fair Peace Booth, Quaker House, Witness for Peace, Sept 11 Families for Peace, Bread for the World, Farm Labor Organizing Committee-NC, National Farm Worker Ministry NC Office, NC Justice Center, Conservation Council of North Carolina, NC Conservation Network, NC Warn, Neuse River Foundation, Triangle Land Conservancy, Wake Audubon Society, Democracy North Carolina, Action for NC Children, Children's Defense Fund, Covenant with NC's Children, Smart Start, Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Cent. America, Friends of Sabeel-North America-John, Kurby n goma (Congo), North Carolinians Against Gun Violence, People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, Amnesty International-Raleigh, Friends of Residents in Long Term Care, Human Rights Coalition of NC, Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, Planned Parenthood, Southern Poverty Law Center, Friends of the Congo, UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns-ONA, Equality North Carolina, Common Sense Foundation, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Resource Center for Women in Ministry in the South, Sojourners, UCC Justice & Peace Action Network

Sad Note: We were greatly grieved by the passing of our long time friend and ministry member Joan Little whom we dearly loved and who did so much for so many.