

Church and Society Minutes
April 15, 2019

Present: Gail, Linda, Marie Strom (from Prospect Park), Jerad, Liz, Isaiah Friesen (LVC)

1. Liz offered a devotion, "Look at the Sunny Side" by Helen Steiner Rice
2. Minutes were approved from February
3. We had a rich discussion around the Empowerment and Public Engagement as Christians workshop. Marie has experience with democracy building and nonviolent change making in South Africa. Her presentation emphasizes the philosophy of nonviolence, an attitude of dealing with difference, and does not focus on tactics like direct action. Nonviolence as a skillset. Making things work when differences won't disappear. Non violent democratic process. She and/or her husband Harry Voyte will be the main presenters at our Nov. 9 Peace and Justice Summit.
4. A COSROW grant application from Faye Christiansen was reviewed and approved.
5. We reviewed the updated grant application language [and made no additional changes].
6. Jerad shared the outline for the breakout session. Description has been circulated through Conference email and is now present on the MAC registration page.
7. Gail will order 50 more Social Principle booklets and additional Faith and Fact Cards for the display at Annual Conference.
8. We had a very extended discussion on the topic for the 11/9 Peace and Justice summit, mostly centered around whether we could attract any participants unless the topic was framed directly in relation to the ongoing post-General Conference LGBTQI+ activism that has captured most every UM social justice activist's energy. Marie can present the first hour. After a short break, more hands-on activity/discussion about what she presented. Afternoon choice of 3 breakout sessions including Northfielders for Justice in Palestine Israel and one by Isaiah about Earthkeepers.
9. Did not discuss presence at the Sept. 28 Mission Summit. Tabled until May.

Next Meeting: May 20, 9:30 Church Center