

## PRAIRIE JUSTICE LEAGUE MEETING

MAY 20, 2018 12:45 to 3:00 pm

PARKER LIBRARY

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Murray, Co-Chair, Timothy Bishop, Jann Halloran, Marjory Bezdek, Maurice Murray, Clark Huff, Carol Foster, Janet Stephens and Vivian Littlefield. GUESTS: Dan Moen and Kathy Glatz of Metro Denver Sanctuary Coalition (MDSC).

WORSHIP: Kim lit the chalice and shared Tenets of Accompaniment, Members read the Touchstones, Vivian shared a music spiritual practice and Maurice closed the meeting. Timothy extinguished the chalice.

METRO DENVER SANCTUARY COALITION: Dan Moen and Kathy Glatz represented the MDSC both at the worship service earlier and at the meeting. Dan and Kathy shared the Coalition's mission to "walk with people" who are at risk of being deported. Some 10 to 12 churches are involved. Seven individuals have been in sanctuary for a short or long term. Since Prairie does not have a building, there are ways that members can be helpful.

1. **Directly help the people in sanctuary.** Suggestions include childcare, transportation, door security or overnight stays. Attending ICE sessions with the individual is also a way of being supportive as is meeting with them, sharing prayers or purchasing food they prepare or jewelry they sell. Helping some of them learn English or providing education about court processes is also needed. Kathy left jewelry that Kim will take to church so Prairie members can purchase them.
2. **Serve on Coalition Committees:** Jann will serve on the Steering Committee that oversees the direction and visioning for the coalition. It is composed of immigrants and 2 to 3 members from each congregation. There is a fundraising committee that helps raise money for financial support of those in sanctuary such as lawyer fees. There is an online option for giving. These funds also help support MDSC activities. There is an Outreach Committee that helps build relationships with other faith communities. There is an Action Strategy Committee that establishes and maintains a separate planning sub-committee for each person who enters sanctuary. Carol Foster agreed to serve on this committee. We are in need of an additional volunteer to tag team with Carol. The next meeting is 6 pm on May 24, 2018 at Park Hill Methodist Church. The Committee meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month.
3. **Members of Prairie were asked to sign The People's Resolution.** This resolution was written by Araceli, Ingrid, Rosa and Sandra calling for Colorado legislature and the Governor to "use the authority of your office to provide official mercy and advocacy in all Sanctuary cases and to enact policy changes at the State and Federal level allowing all Colorado residents to participate in

the wellbeing of our state, and to create a path to status they can start walking down.” Members signed the petition and will offer an opportunity to other members of Prairie to do so as well.

HOUSEKEEPING ISSUES: Kim announced that Carol Foster has offered to assist with committee communications and Vivian will also continue doing minutes.

The Justice League will not meet in June, but will have a July social event and a planning meeting in August.

A GROUP READ HAS BEEN SELECTED: “Citizen: An American Lyric” by Claudia Rankine. Please read over the summer; there will be discussion and responsive art-making activities in September.

JUSTICE LEAGUE GOALS RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: Kim noted that members of Prairie have asked her what the Justice League is doing about the environmental issues. She noted that there was not a current leader for a coordinated effort which would include the Open Space Clean Up and fewer individuals are involved. A new member is interested in environmental justice, but is asking what a leadership role would do. The need for leadership in this area was supported and after some discussion, the members present agreed that such activities should come under the Justice League’s oversight and involvement. Vivian shared that the Citizens Lobby for Climate might be a partner in activities and shared their web site. A picnic will be help to share information about current climate lobby activities. The announcement will be put in the Prairie newsletter. It was concluded that the new member would be invited to the Justice League meeting and a discussion about priorities in climate change will be held. Clark suggested that the goals be kept simple since there is so much in this area. Vivian noted that the service on Earth Day led by Janet was well attended and a number of people led a session about a variety of environmental issues. Jann noted that 80 % of the congregation is interested in environmental issues. A NEW LEADER IS WELCOME!!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: Vivian has followed up with the League at the request of Kim and a discussion about voter registration and suppression in an earlier meeting of the Justice League. The newest information is a web site on voting, how to vote, absentee ballots etc. There is also information about all the candidates and their positions. This is a nationwide web site. One can enter their address and find out where to vote and how to register as well as all candidates running in their district The web site is: [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org). This would be helpful to new residents and teens that can vote for the first time. Carol suggests we post it in the newsletter. Vivian will do that for the first June issue.