

Minutes for Sunday, December 13, 2009

Peace and Social Action Committee

Present: Jon Thomas, Stephanie Alley, and Martha Dickinson, chair.

The meeting was convened around 9 AM. We covered all items on our agenda.

1. We tabled discussion of Lakoff's *Don't Think of an Elephant*. Once more of us have read it, we will discuss it. It explains how one's worldview affects one's opinion on various particular issues, irregardless of the facts, and how to frame issues so that they communicate better.

2. **Guest at Your Table** boxes have been distributed thanks mostly to Margery's efforts (see uusc.org/guest). Martha and Margery visited the High School Youth RE group and did a program recommended by UUSC on the UN Declaration on Human Rights. We thought it went very well. Announcements will continue to be made and printed in the Order of Service. Ideas for increasing awareness are welcome.

3. How do we honor and help our **veterans**? We postponed discussion of this issue until Mary Alice can be present.

4. We discussed plans for the January congregational meeting for **UUA Congregational Poll on a Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking** (see <http://www.uua.org/csw>) and other items. Vote in the Congregational Poll (closes February 1, 2010) Info is repeated below:

a. Approve placing the Draft Statement of Conscience (SOC) "[Peacemaking](#)" on the Final Agenda for General Assembly (GA) 2010. We should all read this. Submit comments on the Draft SOC "[Peacemaking](#)" (preview [comment form](#)) (closes February 1, 2010).

Jon Thomas will draft comments on the Just War position, especially in light of Obama's Nobel Prize speech saying that Afghanistan War is a just war. He will put a note in the January NUUS if he has time.

b. Select five proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) ([view all proposed CSAIs](#)) Six CSAIs have been proposed. Responsibility for understanding and explaining the issues was allocated as follows.

[Ending Slavery](#)

[Energy, Peace, and Justice](#) - Martha Dickinson

[Immigration as a Moral Issue](#) -- Eileen Brennan

[National Economic Reform: A Moral Imperative](#) -- Stephanie Alley

[Nuclear Disarmament](#) Pam Person

[Revitalizing American Democracy](#) Jon Thomas

c. Submit comments on the Draft CSAI "[Ethical Eating](#)" (preview [comment form](#)) (closes March 1, 2010). We should initiate discussion of this. Martha will ask Karen Wigglesworth if she would like to present this to the congregational meeting.

Stephanie suggested having printed copies available. Martha will see about doing that. We should each read through the proposals and be prepared to discuss them at our January meeting, Jan 3. Martha wrote an article for the December NUUS about this that included links to the proposals.

5. Rich Bullock of Acadia Friends has given us two more copies of the **Rethink Afghanistan DVD**. Martha gave her copy to Congressman Michaud. Stephanie took a copy to show on Little Cranberry.

We did not do the congregational **letter writing campaign on Afghanistan**. Martha spaced out. We are all still urged to write a letter to Obama and, if we can, a letter to the editor. We will encourage members of the congregation to do the same. To email President Obama, go to www.whitehouse.gov and click on "Contact us" to find a form to send. You can also call or write to:

President Obama

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20500

Phone Numbers Comments: 202-456-1111 Switchboard: 202-456-1414

6. Congressman Michaud has said he will cosign the **Clean Water Protection Act HR1310**, as we have been asking him to do. This bill is simple and would prohibit the dumping of waste from Mountain Top Removal Mining into streambeds. Rob Shetterly has said he would be interested in helping us with a program on Mountaintop Removal Mining. We just need to plan it. Rob and Voices for Peace will be doing a fundraising event in February for Open Door in Ellsworth.

7. Martha went to Bangor High to help the newly forming **Students for Peace and Justice** group with a literature table on Alternatives to the Military. Literature from AFSC and Veterans for Peace was distributed. All went well. She gave them a copy of the book "It's Your Life", that we have been using in local high schools, and of the DVD, Before You Enlist. We will continue to work with Veterans for Peace in Bangor on this.

8. **Everybody Eats** is now serving meals from 3 pm to 6 pm every Monday at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Ellsworth and still needs volunteers for between 11 am and 7 pm. Shifts are usually 11 am to 3 pm and 3 pm to 7 pm but are flexible. Martha goes about twice a month and reports it is lots of fun. Stephanie may go tomorrow for part of the early shift.

We adjourned shortly after 10 AM until our **next meeting, Sunday, January 3, 2010**.

Yours truly, Martha Dickinson