



Grace Spiritual Growth Committee

agenda/MINUTES – September 22, 2019

Present: Beverly Anderson, Michelle Fountain, Ellen Green (minutes)

Opening – Shared prayer for guidance in our work

1. Check-in – where are we, and where are we going? Open and honest discussion of where we are, where we think the church is, where we want Grace to be:
 - a. All members need to be “in the know” – transparency going forward so no one feels on the outside.
 - b. We need to vote on becoming a 1 full-time minister church, not just assume that. While it was felt that that is where we probably need to be, it has to be approved by the congregation in a full vote, not just presented by the Council.
 - c. Many people were upset that the Monday small meeting wasn’t open to the whole church. While it was acknowledged that small groups are more conducive to more open discussion, the fact that this was an invitation-only small group that left others out does not help the wider church feel included.
 - d. We need small groups, in the style of reVision, to allow the congregation to practice Civil Discourse while discerning where Grace is headed. It would be a good forum for small groups to work on parts of the church profile that is necessary for the Diaconate to call an interim. The small groups could each take a part of the required profile, and then we could meet as a whole church (like we did with reVision) to discuss the profile and agree on it together. Spiritual Growth Committee is volunteering to help with this process.
2. TONIGHT – Peace concert with SW Assoc. – fundraiser for CASP. Michelle volunteered to take care of raffle tickets at the door.
3. From Council – because we have no Parish Life committee at this point, we thought it would be best for each committee to try to incorporate congregational events. SGC is hosting the event on Sept. 29 and is working with Music to have Jim Wright present a travelogue on his medical/dental mission trips.
4. Immigration – Next steps:

September 29 (Michaelmas – St. Michael vanquishing evil) – after worship potluck lunch, crafts/cards/messages of support to make to send to asylum seekers at the border, collect funds for mailing blankets*. Ellen has invited larger group from our community partners and members of Grace to attend and discuss next steps for perhaps housing families in the Rutland area. *The blanket project: dagmar@artdivision.org OR <https://www.artdivision.org/the-blanket-project.html> Many people have already started creating blankets! Marty Barclay will check with the Prayer Shawl ministry to see if they want to donate also. When blankets are

completed, get them to Ellen, who will see about shipping them in batches as they come in, and we will collect already finished blankets on Sept. 29. Michelle offered an alternative shipping manner that could save us money.

- c. Next steps in considering housing – call out for churches to house (big ICE raids). Ellen was already approached by someone who is willing to house in her home.
 - d. Migrant Justice report from Michelle – the main work of MJ is too far from us to respond to easily, but they are in need of money (perhaps a concert or other fundraiser for them?) and there is a number to call if you see ICE setting up a roadblock/checkpoint: 1-802-881-7229
5. EVICTED – Report from Janice – while we haven't had any response yet to the letter sent out to invite the community to talk about both the book and the housing situation in the Rutland area, Janice is working through Ron Pulcer's connections at NAACP to see if they would like to join us.
 6. Upcoming classes – small groups to help Grace heal and grow (see above 1.d)

Next meeting – **October 6, 2019**

Agenda Items: Small groups? Thinking about Lent...comparative religions?

Opening: ?????(please volunteer 😊)