

PMC Meeting of Sept 12th at 1st Presbyterian

Attendees:

Faith House

Island United Church in FC
1st Presbyterian of Burlingame
Peninsula Sinai Cong
Mormon (LDS)
Pen Temple Beth El
1st Presbyterian of Burlingame
Mormon (LDS)
Pen Temple Beth El
Cong Beth Jacob
Cong Beth Jacob
Pen Temple Sholom
Pen Temple Beth El
Trinity Baptist
Bowditch Middle School
Shinnyo-en USA
St. Pauls Episcopal
Cong Church Belmont
Trinity Baptist
New Vision Methodist
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of RWC
1st Presbyterian of Burlingame

Members:

Alexis Lewis
Carol Deatherage
Dana Izenson
Debbie Grewal
Dick Heiman
Gary Deatherage
Desirae Barton
Joel Miller
John Poole
Jon Levinson
Judy Harris
Judy Miller
Justin Wooley
Ken Klieman
Kyoko Sato
Lisa Striebing
Rev Kristi Denham
Rev. Carole Moore
Rev. Lillian Capehart
Tovis Page
Vickie Sherman

Intros all around

Opening Prayer – Rev. Kristi

Debrief Prayer for Peace – Lisa S., and others

- Good turnout all (60 people) 5 major faiths –
- powerful experience –
- Lisa S. has some pictures (these have been posted on the PMC web site);
- Dilip A. created a wonderful video at this event and that has also been posted.
- reflect on how we can have more shared experience;
- a PMC banner would be very helpful
- Each faith group prepared something;
- very diverse; some teaching, maybe something collaborative in future and

- perhaps some more planning
- Lots of Joy,
- but closing songs didn't quite work
- Lisa S. feels she could have been a little more directive
- maybe a gathering afterwards such as a simple meal
- committee should get together and plan in January timeframe
- Rev. Kristi will talk with Mickey Carter for publicity
- Closing songs maybe Imagine by John Lennon; tying in with student interfaith alliance
- Timing for each presentation was good; but something afterwards;
- handouts were helpful
- Intimacy of smaller group is good
- Every time we can bring new faces together is a win; fabulous experiment;
- smiles from beginning to end;
- post publicize what we accomplished with all 5 faiths
- Share photos from event on Google Drive

Racism report

Rev Kristi's meeting - We had an excellent meeting Monday evening, August 8, 2016.

- We discussed many ways we could become better educated around the issues facing people of color in our community and agreed to reach out where possible to build stronger relationships of support with both our friends in diverse communities and with the various police departments around us.
- It was suggested that we all read "The New Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander.
- We talked about setting aside a significant part of our next Peninsula Multifaith Coalition meeting to build more understanding of the issue but after more thought on the subject I would like to suggest we modify our plans to simply use our opening time (the first 20 minutes) at our next PMC Board meeting to both introduce ourselves and share briefly our individual thoughts on this subject.
- This could be recorded
- take them back to this committee to see whether there are further actions we can take. We don't want to coopt the work of PMC with one issue, however important. I hope you understand this decision.
- We have not set a time or a date for another meeting and we anticipate hearing more from Dick about meeting with the sheriff.

Meeting with San Mateo Police Chief Susan Manheimer Submitted by Dick Heiman

- Lisa, Pastor Connie, Rev. Carole and Dick H. met with San Mateo Police Chief Susan Manheimer and her community outreach coordinator, Captain Dave Norris on Thursday, 8/18/16.
- This message is addressed to the faith house liaisons making up our anti-racism committee.
- There were two other folks from UURWC at our initial meeting.
- The meeting was inspirational, as it always is for me when I meet with our strong leaders of good heart.
- During the meeting we wandered over the full spectrum of racism issues, but focused on what is going on in our community now, and a proposed action plan.
- We were impressed with the sincerity with which Susan and Dave treated the issues of community outreach.
- This was epitomized by their dedication to President Obama's recommendations on 21st century policing and their own San Mateo leadership documentation.

- Rev. Carole was eloquent in expressing the concerns of many African/Americans in her congregation, Trinity Baptist.
- These stories of discrimination come out in candid meetings.
- Many involve the attitude and actions of the police.
- While none involved a serious result, hearing of them seemed to take Dave N. and Susan M. back a bit.
- In the short term they immediately resolved to meet with members of the church in some way, which Rev. Carole will arrange.
- This might form a template that other churches might use.
- Susan M's theme was to treat these issues locally and church by church.
- How her department treats such issues may well vary from the departments in other cities in the North Peninsula.
- She discouraged big meetings with our whole coalition.
- Pastor Connie asked what we might pray for.
- And Susan M. was eloquent in suggesting we pray that we see each other as individuals.
- This brings us to long term implications.
- We are committed to helping more of our congregants to see each other as individuals.
- Here are some recommendations for us to consider.
- Perhaps we could make our mission statement a little more encompassing by indicating how faith and culture are inextricably woven.
- Lisa points out that knowing each other's culture and background as well as faith is integral in true understanding and friendship.
- I'm hearing Lisa S., Rev. Carole and Vickie S. say in many ways that we should facilitate such understanding.
- Follow up with Rev. Carole to see the effectiveness of the police meeting with her members.
- Pastor Connie will fashion a prayer that we could all relate to.

PMC Meeting

- Rev. Carole is going to propose a small event (table talk) at her congregation.
- Her congregants are mostly seniors and feel comfortable talking with police and the chief – so maybe they prefer the smaller groups and discussions instead of a large group.
- Many of her congregants like to discuss shared stories and try to understand each other.
- Tovis P. – several people from her congregation did attend and they are doing an event on Oct 1st and inviting several people from different congregation to discuss ideas going forward
- Several also liked the idea of small groups
- suggest book Black Like Me by Howard Griffin
- talked about the UN International Day of Peace in September.
- thought that criticizing Colin K was a thinly discussed racist issue
- wanted to know the big picture – what are we trying to accomplish
- come to the aid of fellow PMC members who have been oppressed.
- Build a better understanding of each other to develop trust & understanding
- We probably shouldn't get too political but opening up dialog and communication is wonderful
- How do our faiths address oppression; turn inward and accept diversity
- put my prayer to the test instead of protesting
- Small group quarterly dinner and committed to meet with other faiths- personal relations;
- Discuss this possibly at next meeting

MLK Day

- Dick H. – talked about PMC history and how we have involved 2000 individuals with our various projects
- Communicating is the key to our success and the key to create the quality environment for our volunteers
- Vickie S. is not able to fill this role due to family issues

- But she has left us with 40 actions items
- Dana I. has stepped up to the plate to take over
- How does each faith house communicate?
- Dana has created a brochure for MLK day
 - Dilip has created a video about MLK Day (3 minutes but tells the story). The video was presented at the meeting by Vickie
- Dick asked how each faith house could implement this?
- We want input from each liaison of how many brochures they could use.
- Or she will just print off 500 – 1000.
- Dana will send the brochure to Joel so that it can be posted on our web site
- We don't have a problem getting sufficient volunteers, but some specific congregations need to send more – to get deeper participation.
- Ken K. – schools; fine tuning by trimming down.
- Two school sites and not three
- Schools still want gardening and reading buddies
- We want volunteers to be engaged the entire time
- The schools have called for painting a world map on their black top
- Fair Oaks would like a computer class (experimental project)
- North Shoreview and Fair Oaks are the two schools we will serve – no lunches this year at the schools
- 9 or so – 11:30 is the time frame at the schools;
- Ken K. is looking for captains at the schools to head up project
- He will have more specifics on projects and expectations soon
- Rev. K needs one more site for singing, So far San Bruno & Belmont –
- Please let Rev. K know if you know of an appropriate singing site.- preferably a low income site
- Debbie G. says she has a group of children singers.
- Singers can be any age
- In general – we are on schedule for MLK Day per Dick H

Financials

- We need individual donations.
- What about GoFundMe?
- Most in group did not agree with GoFundMe because it is typically used for one-time causes.
- Better to go thru the PMC website as the rate that PayPal takes is relatively low, esp. now that PMC is non-profit.

Closing Prayer

By Rev Lillian

Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 5th at Peninsula Temple Shalom

Notes prepared by Joel Miller (PMCSecretary) on Sept. 20th 2016

