

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CLUSTER
SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 24, 2018
FAYETTE, IOWA
7:00 P.M.

Attendees: Deacon Michal Schemmel (IC – Cluster Deacon); Andy Johnson (SP); Lois McElvania (HN); Kurt Wood (SFA – Cluster Pastoral Council Chairman); Elaine Reicks (SFA); Ann Egan (IC); Fr. Donald Komboh (Pastor); Maureen Johnson (SP – Cluster Business Manager)

Deacon Mike opened the meeting with prayer.
Meeting was lead by Kurt Wood as the Pastoral Council Chairman.

Kurt thanked those volunteering to form this committee for their willingness to take on this important work of the Cluster and put forth ideas about goals and organization for this committee.

Lois and Andy reported on the Regional meeting on Social Justice Concerns held at St. Patrick’s in Waukon in June. That meeting was led by Fr. Mark Osterhaus and included a guest speaker, Steve Schmitt from Catholic Charities. The scope of what is being done on Social Justice Concerns in the Waukon/Harpers Ferry/Lansing areas is vast and was impressive. A couple ideas that stood out was the need to keep parishioners aware of social justice issues possibly through a “Social Justice Corner” in the bulletin as an occasional item. Content for this could start with the seven social justice teachings of the Catholic Church.

Fr. Donald encouraged the committee to seek out the needs of the Cluster and develop an approach to address those needs in some way that is uniquely the Cluster. He stated that they have the full support of the Cluster and parish staffs and although he will not be able to attend all their meetings, he encouraged them to call on him for help as needed.

Discussion was held to answer the question: “What are we currently doing in our parishes to address social justice concerns?”

It was moved, seconded and unanimously agreed to adopt the following as a formal statement of the purpose of this committee:

Continue Jesus’ ministry [in the St. Joseph the Worker Cluster] through:

- Service to marginalized and special needs
- Promoting justice and charity to all
- Providing opportunities for service

Elaine moved and Ann seconded to accept the following as a formal statement of committee membership:

1. Appointed and/or volunteer according to the bylaws of the local pastoral council constitution.
2. Demonstrated interest in justice, in serving the needy, and in promoting respect for all persons.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Andy moved and Elaine seconded to nominate Lois as committee chairperson. Motion carried by a vote of 3-0 with one abstention. Maureen will act as acting secretary while the committee is getting itself established.

It was discussed and agreed to assist immediately with collection and distribution of school supplies. Lois will have appropriate announcements put in the bulletin. Committee members will check with their local school and advise them of the campaign to collect supplies and to identify any specific needs school officials may be

knowledgeable about. The committee members will be responsible for putting collection baskets/boxes in an appropriate place in their respective parishes and collecting and delivering the donated items.

Next Meeting Items:

Review Archdiocesan guidelines for committee functions with a goal of defining the functioning of this committee.

Next Meeting Schedule:

Tuesday, August 21, 2018 7:00 p.m. St. Francis of Assisi, Fayette

Adjournment:

Ann moved and Andy seconded to adjourn at 8:26 p.m.

Fr. Donald led prayer to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Maureen Johnson

Acting Secretary/Cluster Business Manager