

Minutes
SAPC Committee on Social Justice
Zoom, September 8, 2020, 7 pm

Attending

Mick Schley	Nettie Carson	John Semmes
JD Ice	Mark La Mantia	Stephanie Mitchell
Katie Hirscher	Jerry Perkins	Lori Edwards
Harry Hurd	Jessica Brueggeman	Shelley Kane
Juan Ayala-Carmona	Elizabeth Lusk	John Fisher
Laura Kent	Dan Cook	Charlotte Sullivan

Agenda

- 7:00-7:05 Opening Prayer
- 7:05-7:10 Review of Session approval, steering committee, organization – Mike Schley
- 7:10-7:35 SignUp Genius and committee organization – Lori Edwards & JD Ice
Communication, Facebook Group, Plans for email communication -
Jessica Brueggeman
Education: Upcoming Class – Charlotte Sullivan
Research – Katie Hirscher
Connections – Sherry Hay and Elizabeth Lusk
- 7:35-7:45 Bail Reform – Example of Preliminary Issue Research – Mike Schley
- 7:45-8:00 Criminal Justice Subcommittee and Discussion – Mark LaMantia and
Juan Ayala- Carmona
- 8:00-8:30 Additional time if needed.

Mike Schley opened the meeting with prayer.

Review

- This group began six weeks ago and has now received Session approval and has begun work.
- Session comments
 - Reception was good and session was supportive.
 - Most work and decisions will be within the committee, with issues taken to Session as necessary.
 - Our scope includes citing systemic poverty, structural racism and other issues of social justice.

- Any work done in the public arena will be non-partisan.
- We will allow and encourage open discussions and respect for all opinions and points of view.
- Organization model
 - Mike suggested a quarterly rotation schedule of each designated issue, including research, education, and advocacy or action.
 - He showed a hypothetical chart with illustrations.
- Steering Committee
 - 10-person committee with issue subcommittees and functional subcommittees (Research, Education, Communication, Connections)
 - Current members are
 - Mike Schley (Chairman)
 - JD Ice (Vice Chairman)
 - Katie Hirscher (Research)
 - Charlotte Sullivan (Education)
 - Jessica Brueggeman (Communication)
 - Elizabeth Lusk, Sherry Hay (Connections)
 - Mark LaMantia, Juan Ayala-Carmona (Criminal Justice issues)
 - Lori Edwards (Poverty issues)
 - Steering committee members may change after the first six months.

SignUp Genius (Lori, JD)

- Please respond with areas of interest; link in today's email and church email
- Share with family and friends; not a commitment to act
- Gives us a pool of people on the committee who may be interested in particular issues.

Communications (Jessica)

- Developing a communications plan
- New Facebook group for sharing and discussing; anyone may join
- Announcement of new committee in this week's church email
- Will add a page to SAPC website
- May do emails in the future

Education (Charlotte)

- Upcoming 4-week series: *Illuminate: A Loophole for Racial Justice*
- Focus on documentary *13th*
- Speakers include Rupert Nacoste, Juan Ayala-Carmona, David Bland

- Wednesdays, September 30 – October 21, 7:00-8:30, Zoom
- SignUp Genius to register – will be in next church email

Research (Katie)

- Amount of information is overwhelming.
- Important statistics are in a file uploaded to Google Docs.
- Much of information is focused on NC issues and reforms.
- Send books, stats, videos and other information and any social issue to Katie. She will make folders.

Connections (Elizabeth, Sherry)

- Purpose is to do with people what Katie is doing with information.
- 2-fold approach
 - Get information from people in the know about organizations, people, and programs that we might benefit from connecting with.
 - Strategize and approach for information and/or to partner with.

Preliminary Research Report Format

- Mike presented a preliminary research format that can be used to clarify basic information for any issue the committee chooses. Group reviewed report as related to bail reform.
 - 7 points
 - What is the issue?
 - Does this issue relate to systemic racism and if so, how?
 - Who is working on this issue?
 - What solutions are being proposed and enacted?
 - What are our gaps in knowledge and understanding? What else do we need to learn?
 - What are our next steps?
 - Resources and References
 - Suggestions to consider for report
 - Efficacy? Are the changes working?
 - Who is the resistance? Why hasn't this happened already?
 - How to allocate resources efficiently

Criminal Justice Issues (Mark, Juan)

- Need to form committee
- Identify issues

- Bail reform, access to justice issues, legal representation issues, rehabilitation, plea bargaining system, parole, movement to ban employers from asking about convictions, restore ability to vote, other aspects of incarceration reform
- Identify approaches and reach
 - May be easier on county level; depends on judges and DAs
- Possible impediments to reform
 - Different rules for each county
 - Absence of current and accurate statistics
 - Legislators not friendly to some changes
 - Affected industries not in favor (i.e., bail bonds industry)
 - Disagreements on fairness

Standard meeting date set for 2nd Thursday for as often as this committee needs to meet.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 8, 7:00pm via Zoom. Link to follow.

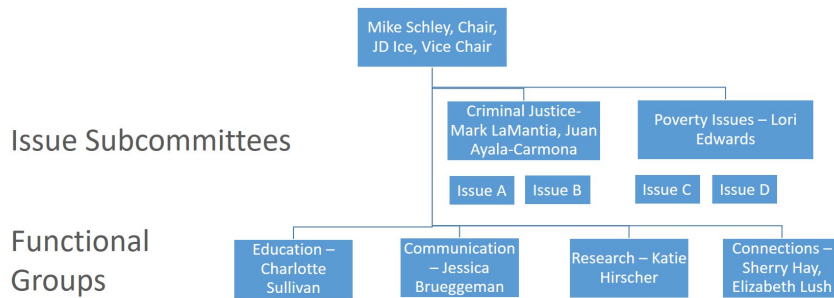
Jessica closed the meeting with prayer.

Note: Mike recommended the new book *His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope* by Jon Meacham.

Organization with hypothetical issues and hypothetical schedule

	Oct.-Dec.	Jan-March	April-June	July-Sept.
Research Issue Task Groups	Bail Reform Housing	Education	Food Security	
Education Congregational Focus		Bail Reform	Housing	Education
Action/Advocacy Issue Task Groups		Bail Reform Housing	Education	

SAPC Social Justice Steering Committee



Note: All committee assignments are for six months.