

Peace and Justice Committee

Annual Report for 2019

The Peace and Justice Committee meets once a month on a Monday evening. Its main issues during 2019 have been social justice, gun violence, treatment of immigrants, and homelessness. We also on occasion support the work of Simpler Living to address environmental stewardship.

The Committee-sponsored *Principles for Social Justice* was adopted by the Cathedral Chapter in January. A fair amount of effort has been devoted to engaging the Cathedral community with the *Principles*. In February the Committee presented a Sunday morning forum on the *Principles*. Beginning in May the Committee sponsored a “Principle of the Month” notice for publication in the Cathedral’s weekly newsletter. The Committee approached the Arts Committee about the possibility of an art show in the Cathedral’s nave themed on the *Principles*. The art show ran for four weeks beginning in mid September.

The Committee has recommended the permanent posting of framed displays of the *Principles* on Cathedral grounds. Representatives of the Committee have been in discussion with the Dean and staff members about the placement and form of the framed displays. This is still underway.

The Rev. Canon Richard Lief has engaged the Committee in mounting a series of occasional Sunday evening events consisting of a potluck dinner with film and discussion following Evensong. Early in the year there was a screening of the film “Hidden Figures.” Another such occasion was on the Sunday in September themed for the International Day of Peace, when we also sponsored a reading of the U.N.’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights in lieu of a homily at Evensong and viewed a short film about Eleanor Roosevelt.

Members of the Cathedral have been supporting several efforts in the community to help refugees and asylum seekers. One particular circumstance was the asylum application of Constantin Bakala who was separated from his family at the local border crossing and held in the east for more than 18 months while his family, who had become members of St. Luke’s, North Park, was in San Diego. The family has been re-united, but their asylum case has yet to be settled.

Four members of St. Paul’s attended the 7th Annual Sandy Hook Vigil at Temple Emanu-El in December, concerning gun violence prevention, where our Dean was one of the speakers.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Hammond