**Social Responsibility Committee** **– Unitarian Church of Montpelier**

Draft Meeting Minutes: October 16. 2016 at 11:30-12:30, Fireside Room

**In attendance:** Hedi Ballantyne. Diane Fitch, Judith Hinds, Mark Hughes, Ginnie Humphreys, Mara Iverson, Fran Krushenick, Maryann Ludlow, Margaret Moore-Blanchard, Ansel Ploog, George Plumb, Baylen Slote, Vicky Viens, Sara Wolf(?Not signed in)

**Welcome ( chalice lighting and reading) and introductions**

Reading from Isaiah 61 1-3 (which bible?)

Sara Wolf introduced (new to church)

**Rev. William J. Barber II speech (and book, The Third Reconstruction) discussion**

2nd Reconstruction was the Civil Rights Movement. It was followed by a backlash – whites, poor feel left out. Not about political party, or whether right or left. Moral Monday. Speak out as unified voice. Inspirational. 1% of populace is manipulating others, Many causes make it difficult to decide how to allot one’s energy. ‘Occupy’ goes from broad based to purist driving out others. Each person has individual commitment and passion so large potential of conflict. Some can be very disrespectful of others. Need passion. Need right language. When say taking moral stance, not all talking about the same thing. Right versus wrong always contextual. Decide what’s right and wrong individually, then find the common points and unify around them. Principle foundation this country was built on. Mess up but always move to correct. Unsuccessful when we are convinced there is not enough for all. Find where all are oppressed. Every movement has groups and individuals not included in the movement. Challenge is to keep expanding. Coalition building requires tolerance. Movement and individuals have to grow. Respect and referral to the parts. Affirmation to all parts. Spiritual growth shows how important love is. Everyone is a core constituent of their primary cause. The intersection of these causes is the common cause. Bring individual complexity into social complexity. Questions of morality and why we do the things we do. Moral and reason can be non-compelling in politics. People do not want to be preached to. If come up with multiple issues have a collective argument. Ideas to think about when we are moving ahead with projects.

**In regard to whether a general discussion like this is a good part of the meeting.**

Future discussions okay but need to cover things that are important in the short term first. Suggestion to get more discussion by going around circle.

**SRC big project**

 How do we do things differently to take a strategic path?

Current suggestions

* Could encourage congregation to take part in a social action that takes place during the year.
* Testing Adult Religious Education (ARE) materials on us. Could take 20 minutes to be feedback.
* Reading The Third Reconstruction by Reverend Barber**,** Rev. Joan leading a discussion.
* Improved communication so congregation well informed of social actions taking place.

**SRC projects check-in**

* Community Pouch (Ginnie, Janet Poeten) Information not done yet. List for year is out.
* Listserve (ET, Mark) Mark has researched. Will work with Vicky to create.
* Refuge network has next group of refuges coming on October 27.
* UCM-VIA to focus on Homelessness this year. Meets before Women’s Alliance zg 4:15 pm.

**Announcements and other SRC business4**

* Justice for All general meeting November 2, 6-8 at UCM. Rev. Joan has agreed to be on the board of directors.
* 275 signatures for voting.
* Thursday, October 20, Central Vermonters for Climate Change to protest construction of natural gas pipeline through park in Hinesburg. Leaving Montpelier park and ride at 7:30
* 2:00 today Sierra Club having a press conference at Statehouse to support Sue Minter.
* ?Discussion of Vikings economics book, social movement in Scandinavian countries. Basic needs of a moral economy.