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

**November 20, 2016 Minutes**

Prepared by Ansel Ploog

PRESENT: Harris Webster, Deb Robinson, Maryann Ludlow, Hedi Ballantyne, Ginnie Humphreys, Linda Vincent, Kathy Johnson, Mary Alice Bisbee, Fran Krushenick, Eva Griffin, Diane Fitch, Irina Markova, Lou Cherry, Mark Hughes, Ansel Ploog.

Joining Mid-Meeting: Joan Javel-Duval, Baylen Slote, Charlotte Root

**Introduction of new folks**

**Reading and Chalice Lighting**

**New SRC Listserv:**

For messages to the whole group use: [srcaction@unitarianchurchofmontpelier.org](mailto:srcaction@unitarianchurchofmontpelier.org)

Mark Hughes will maintain the list of emails but is looking for folks who could help with the administrative side of listserv

**Living Lighter Committee**

This committee needs volunteers. Anyone interested in making UCM more environmentally sound should consider joining. (Harris)

**SRC Vestry Display and Lending Library**

The lending shelves need to be gone through. Ansel will organize this with whoever is interested one Sunday before service, after the Holiday Fair.

Heifer International will need space for their table during the holidays. (Hedi)

Ansel proposed to use the bulletin board more actively as the place for SRC to communicate what we’re doing with the rest of the congregation. This can be a place for meeting minutes and event announcements. Material will be turned over monthly to keep it current.

Joan suggested that Vestry displays and coordination be a topic for the next Committee of Chairs meeting in January.

**UUA Common Read – The Third Reconstruction**

Joan will be having a discussion of this book in January. Ansel expressed that it would be great to have as many SRC members read the book and attend as possible.

**SRC Sponsorship**

Organizations seeking sponsorship from the SRC may be looking to add the committee’s name to their publicity and/or they may want to be able to rent the church for free. The listerv will be used to check whether committee members have objections to SRC sponsorship of specific events. Sponsorship will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

**Million Woman March in DC**

There is a local group from Montpelier renting a bus and going down. No UCM-led group. Maryann will get more information on who is organizing what and whether there is a local event so we can share information with the rest of the congregation.

**Sanctuary Congregation designation**

Becoming a sanctuary would mean that UCM housed people who were undocumented in order to prevent their deportation. Because of the number of undocumented workers in VT, especially on dairy farms, this would be a way to provide local support to those at risk of deportation. This is a big project that would require Board approval. Eva, Diane, and Charlotte volunteer to begin to research what becoming a Sanctuary Congregation would entail. SRC will discuss this again at our January meeting.

**Closing Reading:**

*Seek and learn to recognize who and what in the midst of the inferno, are not inferno, then make them endure, give them space. – Italo Calvino,* Invisible Cities

**EVENTS:**

**Tuesday, November 29th 6:30pm-7:30pm at Bethany Church. VIA event on their end homelessness campaign. Legislators will be present. Please show up to voice your support. (Harris)**

**Beginning in January: Justice for All meetings will happen the 4th Thursday of every month.**