

Beloved Community Team Meeting Minutes October 6, 2022

Present: Lorina Goodjoint, Andy Bartels, Kathy Stewart, Adina Reynolds, Sueann Goretti

Missed and prayed for in their travels: Leanne and John Kennedy

We ended our last meeting with the plan to enter a time of discernment around the question: “What is the direction the Lord wants us to take? What steps do we take next as a Team to build Beloved Community in the world?”

Lorina: Jesus broke down the barriers in His ministry. We need to tell the truth about racism and social inequity, and not sugar coat it. Beloved Community Team (BCT) can create an intimate, safe environment to move from understanding to action. BCT can share our own truths with prayer, education, and giving others a chance to learn and grow on their own, while also giving space for the quieter participants. We trusted God to move us from a place of sharing to one of evangelism, moving our energy out into the world, trusting in God to help us do the work. Her faith journey is moving her towards a new church home, but she is committed to Beloved Community through the end of December.

Andy: St Matthew is facing challenges that are too big for as a team. We have had success from the start by being us as a team with a narrow focus. We should continue that focus, to do our limited work and let it take hold in St Matthew and the larger world as the future unfolds. Take our next steps as a path of surrender. He thinks we should begin those steps soon -- in the next two months.

Kathy: We have this grant which gives us the means to do a job, which is to expand the conversation around racism and social injustice within St Matthew and the wider Browns Point community. We should make plans to move ahead with Sacred Ground or some other curriculum, taking concrete steps focused on a start date at least two months down the road, but probably more. It is hoped that Fr Kendall, Kathy, and Carla from the diocese will help us learn the next steps and a reasonable time frame. Zoom link for October 18 meeting with Carla is available for any/all to attend zoom meeting.

Sueann: Senses the place St Matthew is in creates a sad, disoriented situation. The discernment around the role of the Beloved Community continues for her.

Adina: Her relocation to California has been a lot of change. She feels pushed and pulled living a life based both at St Matthew and surrounded by excellent church home options waiting for her in California. She wonders how effective she can be at St Matthew with only a Zoom connection. She wonders how effective a church home at St Matthew can be for her. She continues on a path of discernment.

Group consensus: No one should take a leadership role in next steps, whether Sacred Ground or some other path, unless they feel called to. Sacred Ground and the steps to take on that process will be clearer after October meeting with Diocese.

The next meeting for the Beloved Community Team will be **on Thursday, November 10th, 2022, at 6:30 PM**. All are welcome to attend. Please email Lorina at lorinagoodj@msn.com for the meeting Zoom link.

Minutes by Andy Bartels