

Beloved Community Team Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2022

Opening Prayer by Lorina Goodjoint

People who attended – Lorina Goodjoint, Adina Reynolds, Kathy Stewart, Andy Bartels, Sueann Goretti, and The Reverend Carla Robinson, Canon for Multicultural Ministry and Community Transformation at the Diocese of Olympia

Introductions: Lorina introduced Carla to the team. Carla shared her interest in our grant activities and would like to be a resource for us. The team described why each of them became part of the Beloved Community team.

The team shared their concerns regarding the reduced number of parishioners as well as St. Matthew's limited finances to support a full-time priest. In the context of these concerns, the team discussed the future role of our Beloved Community team and how best to proceed with implementing the upcoming 2023 grant activities that will offer educational and action oriented projects to address racial justice and reconciliation.

Carla offered her thoughts and encouraged us to continue our efforts. She is in a key position at the Diocese to support us by joining our team and participating in some of the grant activities (specifically the Sacred Ground program). Carla added that our team could be the "spark" that is needed to reenergize some parishioners to become more involved at St. Matthew. Although our parish and our team are in transition, we have a core group of committed team members, the support and consultation from the Diocese, and some grant money that will contribute to our success.

The team has begun to advertise our first grant activity beginning January 2023. The following announcement was posted in the Times and the parish website:

In our current and confusing times are you wondering how your faith can guide your actions toward social and racial justice? Do you want more information about our U.S. history and current issues regarding social and racial justice? Would you like to participate in small group conversations with other St. Matthew parishioners about these issues and how to put our faith into practice?

Starting in 2023 our St. Matthew Beloved Community grant gives us an opportunity to form small groups (also known as circles) and to witness truth telling through courageous conversations. The Episcopal Church's Sacred Ground curriculum offers a unique learning experience through videos, readings, and discussions. The program follows best practices for organizing and facilitating the small groups to ensure the circles are safe, non-judgmental places where people can tell their truth. This is how healing begins!

In the past three years over 20,000 participants across the country have experienced the Episcopal Church's Sacred Ground curriculum. A recent evaluation of the program showed

Sacred Ground has a powerful impact on participants' knowledge, attitudes, and emotional capacity.

Join a circle (Zoom or in-person) and be part of this amazing experience! If you would like to know more, email Kathy Stewart at kbsdvs@comcast.net or leave a message on her phone (206-915-8916).

Next Steps

- (1) Continue to advertise the upcoming Sacred Ground series.
- (2) Kathy suggested that each member of the team reach out to one person to attend our next meeting on December 15, 2022 at 6:30 pm. The purpose is to invite to a few key parishioners who may be interested in participating on the team and helping the team plan the Sacred Ground program.
- (3) Consider hosting a free, catered dinner at the parish (possibly in January) to explain the Sacred Ground program to interested parishioners.
- (4) The next meeting for the Beloved Community Team will be on Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Kathy will send out the Zoom link.

Closing prayer by Kathy

Minutes by Kathy Stewart