

Beloved Community Team Meeting Minutes  
November 18, 2021

Opening Prayer by Lorina Goodjoint

People who attended – Lorina Goodjoint, Adina Reynolds, Kathy Stewart, Andy Bartels  
(Welcome, Andy!)

Building on our previous work to develop our mission statement and our discussions on possible actions to take, the Team started tonight refining an “Action Statement” that will keep us rooted in Jesus Christ. We move forward in crafting the details of our plan to engage our St. Matthew community in the work towards social justice within ourselves, within our church, and with others. This action statement will clearly state that Jesus is the center of our Beloved Team’s ministry.

As the Holy Spirit guided us tonight, our discussions were fruitful and included the following ideas:

- At the next meeting (**December 9<sup>th</sup>**):
  - The team will add more details to our “Action Plan” statement.
  - We will begin planning our first task. We will engage the St. Matthew community with discussion around the book titled, “The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for the Beloved Community” by Stephanie Spellers. We will be discussing the book’s content as a starting point with St. Matthew parishioners.
- We hope to implement the St. Matthew, Church Cracked Open book discussions beginning in 2022
- Gathering parishioners at a variety of venues to participate in educational activities, including reading relevant books, watching videos and documentaries and sharing our own stories of social justice and injustice.
- The venues could include (1) educational events at 9:00 AM in between St. Matthew’s 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM liturgy; (2) social events and book groups at different parishioners’ homes; and (3) worship services focused on social justice issues and reflections of how Jesus is the way toward social justice. Include facts about Episcopal church history within the liturgy for truth and prayer.
- Some parishioners may prefer to participate in Zoom sessions on this topic

Just a reminder, our **Mission Statement for the Beloved Community Team** is:

*“To foster a space to tell our stories and our truth about racial and social injustices, to begin to understand the past and present effect of racism in our society, and to create a community of healing and reconciliation.”*

Closing prayer by Lorina Goodjoint

**The next meeting for the Beloved Community Team will be on Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 6:30 PM.** All are welcome to attend. Please email Lorina at [lorinagoodj@msn.com](mailto:lorinagoodj@msn.com) so she can send you the Zoom link for the meeting.

Minutes by Kathy Stewart