

Church of the Nativity  
VOICE-Buffalo Social Justice Team Meeting Minutes  
April 14, 2008

Present: Philip Siddons, Bette Brunish, Linda Siddons, Linda Heffley, Nancy Kresge, Helen Cyrulik, Jan Losi.

Meeting called to order at 7:06pm. Jan read “Who knows the things that make for peace?”, from Phil Smith, facilitator from the retreat.

1. Old minutes read and accepted with corrections.
2. Reports/Updates: Mission Statement: Sheila McCarthy (from Blessed Sacrament RC Church) made several grammatical changes at the last meeting. See the attached Mission Statement.

NICKEL @ DIMED: we will attend this play on April 25th at 8pm and meet for dinner at Romeo's and Juliet's on Hertel at 6:30pm.

General Monthly Meeting: 4/21 at Holy Cross at 7pm located Niagara and 7th Street.

Special Board Meeting: report from P. Siddons. A dinner sharing strategy meeting of the Board of Directors. Board is not cohesive and as communicative as they want to be. A personal sharing exercise—“a time in your life when...” Sharing of ideas and strategies for VOICE. Sheila wrote up a list, hope it will be disseminated; sent to Nancy so far; Philip hopes to put it on website. Want to be open to unrepresented—Jewish and Muslim Groups. Philip wants focus on values and not religions. A fruitful meeting.

3. Organizing People: One-on-one conversations: ongoing.
4. Organizing Money-Fundraising: Art Auction & Wine & Cheese Reception. Friday, May 9 at 5:30pm at Wesminister Presbyterian. Charles Burchfield daughter is donating art work.
5. Educating Congregation on Social Justice: Peacemaking group: Protest of Vietnam War. Outside people came to hear George Mechi. Translate this in Church and in our lives today. Take a stand, but face risks and opposition. Take risks and stand together, even if on the losing side. Model is Jesus.

St. Francis “Care for Creation” program. Education piece from Sr. Sharon. Do this fall.

Plans for fall 2008: Suggestion: bring in Maria Whyte to do a talk on poverty. She did a presentation at Unitarian in Amherst that was very good. Helen will contact her and see what her availability is.

Audrey Mang: program on non-violence.

Information for the Uninsured: follow up from Linda Siddons: info available from CHS. Call for info or have presenters. Get info from their website.

Pilgrim St. Luke T-shirt (cross with a peace sign). Do we want to design our own? Suggestion: grass with roots on t-shirt.

Email received regarding who to buy your gas from what companies—not Saudi's. Info from Department of Energy from Arthur Davis. Decision not to publish because this may be construed as retaliatory and mean spirited.

6. Evaluation and prayer: “rowdy, busy, focus on education, interesting, productive for group” Closing prayer: Philip.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

NEXT MEETING: Monday May 12, 2008 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Helen Cyrulik

MISSION STATEMENT  
VOICE-BUFFALO SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM  
AT CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

The Social Justice Team at Church of the Nativity is an active member of VOICE Buffalo. It serves as a link and extension of our presence in the wider ecumenical life of the community by educating our congregation on social justice issues, seeking to make a positive difference in our society.

We seek to make a positive difference in our society by specifically working to enable:

- Full employment
- Full education
- Equitable pay
- Greater diversity
- Greater environmental responsibility
- Health care for all
- The elimination of poverty and violence
- Organizing people, building relationships and organizing money.