

# Service & Justice Coalition Summit Minutes

## March 27, 2021 Meeting via ZOOM (online) 9:30-11:30am

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

**Debby Park, Melinda Murdock** from St. David's, Clairemont; **Chistina Grobin** from St. Peter's, Del Mar; **Jill Henderson** from St. Bart's, Poway; **Carolyn Lief, Anita Wucinic-Turner, Diane Lopez Hughes** from St. Paul's Cathedral; **Deann Rios** from EDSD; **Carol Sands** from All Souls, Pt. Loma; **Judy Burton** from St. Margaret's, Palm Desert; **Julie Young, Polly Morelli** from Christ Church, Coronado; **Lena Granet** from Church of St. Paul in the Desert, Palm Springs; **Debbie Kistler** from St. Mark's, City Heights; **Clarence Woods** from St. Timothy's, Rancho Penasquitos; **Diane Johnson** from St. Barnabas, Borrego Springs.

### NEWCOMERS:

**Diane Johnson** joined us for the first time. St. Barnabas' rector, 10 years ago, started the Borrego Ministers' Association which is open to lay people as well as clergy and this group continues working in the community. During the pandemic they raised \$150,000 to help people with rent, utilities and food.

### CHURCH UPDATES

#### *From St. David's, Clairemont...*

**Debby Park** reported that St. David's is not doing much outreach these days, just Rachel's dinner teams. The Outreach Committee is being reimagined as the Service & Justice Committee and will be forming in the next couple of months, tasked with seeking opportunities to connect with the needs of the community and to advocate for systemic social change wherever it is needed. One Sacred Ground group is meeting.

#### *From St. Marks, City Heights...*

**Debbie Kistler** reported that St. James helped then put together backpacks filled with items their neighbors need and they will be distributed by walking the neighborhood on Maundy Thursday. Their Food Pantry is still going strong, feeding twice as many people as last year. They are in the process of figuring out an "adapted" Back to School event for this year, are on to Sacred Ground 2.0 and by July hope to start St. Mark's "hamlets" (small groups).

#### *From St. Bart's Poway...*

**Jill Henderson** said their Sacred Ground groups are starting Session 8 and looking ahead, maybe doing a commissioning where Sacred Ground "graduates" pledge to continue the work. They will be starting up more Sacred Ground circles in June. Also coming up is a study of the film "Traces of the Trade." St. Barts' continues to help with food prep and packaging two Sundays a month for Interfaith Community Services.

#### *From St. Peter's Del Mar...*

**Chistina Grobin** reported that renovations on their campus continue and the Thrift Shop is thriving. They have four Sacred Ground circles in process, continue to provide meals to Rachel's and support Showers of Blessings up in Escondido. They need volunteers, especially truck drivers so contact Chistina if you can help. Their Helping Hands ministry work is intermittent but they hope to get it back up as people are vaccinated.

#### *From All Souls, Pt. Loma...*

**Carol Sands** continues food collections and delivery to Loaves & Fishes in Ocean Beach and All Souls donated money to Interfaith Shelter to provide hotel rooms and food for their clients. They are excited to start outdoor services on Easter Sunday.

#### *From St. Timothy's, Rancho Penasquitos...*

**Clarence Woods** reported they continue to work with the Community Cares Program to donate food to those in the 56 Corridor. They donated 48lbs of cabbage from their garden! They have finished their first Sacred Ground circles and a new group is starting. They have been having in-person services for about three weeks now.

#### *From St. Paul's Cathedral...*

**Carolyn Lief** reported that they are on Session 8 of Sacred Ground. The apartment building being built on their site is now at 14 stories (out of a final 20) and the bottom two floors will be for the Cathedral. Existing

office space will be remodeled, and will include a commercial kitchen to help them feed those in need downtown. They are working on a way to work with St. Luke's, perhaps conversing with clients who are learning English. St. Paul's is taking in clothing on Mondays by appointment, and in-person services will start on April 11. Their outdoor Thursday services continue. **Diane Lopez Hughes** said they had 60 participants in their Simpler Living book study and are continuing their discussion on Creation Care applications. Simpler Living at St Paul's Cathedral will host four Sunday Faith Forums from April 11 - May 2 from 9-10am via Zoom. All are welcome. Recordings will also be available. This year's forums will speak to our theme, Rising to the Challenge. 4/11 Good Neighbor Gardens; 4/18 Honing Spirituality for OneEarth Ways; 4/25 Creation Care Sunday Rising in Faithful Challenge; 5/2 Joyfully Embracing our Vocation to Restore God's Gift of Creation. For more information go to:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/14TjL3ORobsFTn4Z1h2Kn4RH8Ou0gPR7DAJLrSouk0G0/edit>. They are researching ways to celebrate indigenous people on whose land we live and on Creation Sunday (April 25) engage youth in the Creation Care initiative by showing the movie "Wall-E" with discussion afterwards. **Anita Wucinic-Turner** attended 8 sessions of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship which focused on how to defund police which was very eye-opening. She asks that we please keep in prayer the trial of Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd. Pray for justice.

### ***From Church of St. Paul in the Desert, Palm Springs...***

**Lena Granet** reported that they are still closed, doing services online only and although they continue to give clothing to the homeless, they are hoping to start doing more once they open. St. Paul's is in the process of looking for a priest and hope to make the call by July.

### ***From St. Margaret's, Palm Desert...***

**Judy Burton**, as liaison between our coalition and the Executive Council of the Diocese, is trying to figure out how to capture what we do and how to share it with the diocese and beyond. At St. Margaret's they have been doing drive-in church at 10am for several months and it works well. Their 8am service has moved inside with a small group and the 10am service hopes to move inside after Easter. Working with Neighbors for Neighbors, they work together with the community to feed 600 families on Tuesdays and provide clothing too. Their Sacred Ground groups are winding down and they will use a survey of participants to see where they go next. A book study of "Gods and Guns" by Michael Austin will happen for Sacred Ground "graduates" as well as others. See [attached](#) for more information.

### ***From Christ Church, Coronado...***

**Julie Young** reported that their Sacred Ground circles are winding down so they are exploring what comes next. Zoom fatigue may mean they take a break for now. The Thrift Shop is up and running. For Lent, parishioners were asked to let go of one thing each day and donate it to the Thrift Shop which was overwhelmed by the response. They continue to provide Car Park dinners to about 40 people twice a month. When their Rector was installed, she asked that her money gift be used to purchase books by Black authors to be put in Little Libraries around Coronado.

## **EDSD PEACE & JUSTICE**

**Deann Rios**, Co-Missioner, for Peace & Justice for the Diocese, reported that they currently have task forces to work on racial justice and creation care and are beginning to form a group to work on immigration and refugee issues. They are also looking for people to serve on a task force about food insecurity and community gardens. Contact Deann at [DRios@edsd.org](mailto:DRios@edsd.org) or 858-260-0747 if you are interested in working on any of these groups. The Diocese has been asked to coordinate religious services and support for the more than 1,000 teenage girls coming to the Convention Center from Border Patrol custody. There are a lot of groups involved in the care of these girls and Deann suggested that we might put together care packages for the girls, or support in some similar way. The Diocesan Revival planned for December has been given a name: "The Good News Festival" and will be held the first weekend on December 3 & 4 at the Town & Country in Mission Valley. Bishop Curry will be there.

## **RELEVANT RESOURCES**

- **What's After Sacred Ground?** [Attached here](#) is a pdf called "BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY ... WHERE YOU ARE," a Resource for Episcopal Individuals, Congregations & Communities Seeking Racial Healing, Reconciliation and Justice.
- **Peace & Justice Academy webinar** attended by Jill and Debby (and Deann helped lead) called "God on the Loose: Activism as an Act of Discipleship" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkCxeNUNBAI>

- **EPISCOPAL PEACE FELLOWSHIP** <https://epfnational.org/> (also follow on FB)  
**Action groups:** Anti-war, Racial Justice, Environmental Justice, Gender Violence Prevention, Death Penalty Abolition, Gun Violence Prevention, Non Violent Conflict Resolution, Palestine Israel Network, Welcoming the Stranger (Immigration and Refugees), and Young Adult Network.  
**Sign up for E-news:** Excellent information, action ideas and resources  
**Monthly national zoom:** 4th Friday of each month from 11am to Noon for Peace Partner church representatives or those wishing to know more about EPF and being in partnership with it.
- **PRESBYTERIAN PEACE FELLOWSHIP** <https://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/> (also follow on FB)  
**Action groups:** Ending Gun Violence, Accompaniment in Colombia and along US-Mexico Border, Palestine and Israel Network, Mobilizing for Climate Justice (Fossil Free), Defunding Police  
**Sign up for E-news:** Excellent information, action ideas and resources
- **EPISCOPAL PUBLIC POLICY NETWORK (and government relations)**  
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/>  
**Advocacy education, resources and engagement:** Racial Reconciliation; Creation Care; Migration, Refugees & Immigration; Human Rights & Peacebuilding; Ending Poverty  
**Civil Discourse Education & Resources**  
**Action and News alerts:** Sign up to receive news and posts...and to be an advocate
- **A RADICAL VISION FOR THE FUTURE**, a movie.  
[https://www.yesmagazine.org/video/radical-vision-for-the-future/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=YESDaily\\_20210326&utm\\_content=YESDaily\\_20210326+CID\\_09d3c0d8cce0c616ef80f22b45589c27&utm\\_source=CM&utm\\_term=Watch%20the%20video](https://www.yesmagazine.org/video/radical-vision-for-the-future/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=YESDaily_20210326&utm_content=YESDaily_20210326+CID_09d3c0d8cce0c616ef80f22b45589c27&utm_source=CM&utm_term=Watch%20the%20video)  
 If you're in need of some hope, "A Message From the Future II: The Years of Repair" is an animated short film that illustrates a radical vision of a future created when 2020 forced us to abandon oppressive systems.

- **SACRED GROUND RESOURCE NOTES:**

Sacred Ground Training Webinars for Organizers and Facilitators: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/webinars/>. SPECIAL NOTE: There is a one-hour Introductory Informational Webinar that is highly recommended for all SG Organizers & Facilitators

SG organizers, facilitators and even participants might consider watching the documentary, "*Backs Against the Wall: the Howard Thurman Story*," prior to beginning their Circles. (Available as DVD to purchase on Amazon for \$14.95 or rent on Vimeo On Demand for \$4.99.) The film gives great insight into Thurman's background and point of view and helps better understand the readings in the SG core book by Thurman, "*Jesus and the Disinherited*."

**Finally, we voted to adopt this new Mission Statement submitted by Sarah Stealy:** The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego Service and Justice Coalition strives to connect service/outreach and peace/social justice coordinators at parishes throughout our diocese so we can network and share ideas and collaborate on projects to make a greater impact in our community.

**Meeting Recording:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/rgxVSOHXYYedTwCmXxMFmT2OjXg38y7OjXhVPMOIB860AmmuFSvM4HrIVJEEllpu.CqVn77Lo87PQZbh6>

Access Passcode: .569cY&S

**CLOSING PRAYERS...**

**Seeking forgiveness**

Great Father,  
 Look on our brokenness;  
 We know that in all creation  
 Only the human family  
 Has strayed from the Sacred Way.  
 Great Father, Holy One,  
 Teach us love, compassion and honor,  
 That we may heal the earth  
 And heal each other.

*Algonkian-Ojibway prayer* from Native American Prayers published by Forward Movement Publications, 1995

“Before I was six years old, my grandparents and my mother had taught me that if all the green things that grow were taken from the earth, there could be no life. If all the four-legged creatures were taken from the earth, there could be no life. If all the winged creatures were taken from the earth, there could be no life. If all our relatives who crawl and swim and live within the earth were taken away, there could be no life. But if all the human beings were taken away, life on earth would flourish. That is how insignificant we are.”

*Quote from Russell Means, Oglala Lakota Nation (11/10/39 to 10/22/2012)*

## ✓ **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**NEXT SUMMIT via Zoom: May 22, 2021 9:30-11:30 am**

*We decided to go to every-other-month meetings.*

### **Emails of this meeting's attendees:**

Melinda Murdock: vivid12@aol.com  
Debby Park: rayandeb@gmail.com  
Judy Burton: jburton@uci.edu  
Jill Henderson: jfh@cox.net  
Deann Rios: drios@edsd.org  
Carolyn Lief: CGLief@aol.com  
Anita Wucinic-Turner: allmyrelations17@gmail.com  
Diane Lopez Hughes: dianelopezhughes@me.com  
Debbie Kistler: dk.outoflove@cox.net  
Carol Sands: sandscarolb@gmail.com  
Lena Granet: lenahome@aol.com  
Chistina Grobin: grobinac@gmail.com  
Julie Young: julieyoung@gmail.com  
Polly Morelli: pollym56@gmail.com  
Clarence Woods: clarencewoods1948@att.net  
Diane Johnson: depjohnson@aol.com