Scranton Area Ministerium Minutes 10 October 2018

Temple Hesed 1 Knox Road, Scranton PA

**Present:**

Rev. Rebecca Barnes Atty. Shannon Brown

Lillian Burnett Bev deBarros

Rev. Lou Divis Dr. Melinda Krokus

Rev. Jack Munley Sr. Terry O’Rourke IHM

Rev. Mary Owens Rev. Jim Redington SJ

Rabbi Moshe Saks Rabbi Daniel Swartz

Vera Walline Katy Windels

Phil Yevics

Rev. Munley called the group to order at 9:08, inviting everyone present to introduce themselves.

He then asked Rabbi Swartz to give the Opening prayer.

Rev. Munley offered congratulations to Rabbi Daniel on behalf of the group for his selection for the lifetime achievement award from Neighborworks.

Minutes from the September meeting were distributed the previous evening by email and printed copies were available for review. Vera Walline made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Sr. Terry O’rourke seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Fr. Redington noted that there had been no financial activity over the previous month, so October’s report was the same as September’s. Rev. Divis made a motion to accept the Financial Report, Katy Windels seconded, the motion passed without exception.

1. The **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** will be held on Friday November 16 as part of the Friday evening Sabbath Serice at Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road in Scranton, beginning at 7 PM. Rabbi Daniel reported that a pot-luck dinner at 6 PM will preceed the Service and games and crafts will be available for families that bring children. Phil Yevics asked about taping the service; Rev. Barnes suggested livestreaming it on Facebook.
2. Phil Yevics reported that he has submitted a **Mini-grant application** to the Moses Taylor Foundation, asking for money to offer an educational event for faith leaders on the issue of Senior Isolation. Grants should be announced by mid-November.
3. In the discussion of **Winter Solstice Activities** it was reported that at least two members were planning some type of “Longest Night of the Year” or “Blue Christmas” event. The Ministerium will try to encourage wider participation in these events.
4. Phil Yevics suggested we give one more year to attempting to keep our website up to date, noting that unless we do so it can actually be counter-productive. There was support for this extension, as well as working to keep the Facebook site more current.
5. In reporting on **Prison Ministry** Bev deBarros noted that there is a need for more volunteers to assist with the distribution of books. She would like for all inmates to have an opportunity to borrow books every week, but the current pool of volunteers is stretched to meet that goal. She reported there will be a training of new volunteers on October 21. Members can use the following announcement to recruit new volunteers:

Volunteers are needed to help distribute books at the Lackawanna County Prison.

Volunteers need to fill out a volunteer form, and go through a 2 hour orientation.  They would then be asked to volunteer for a 2 hour shift at least once a month, but  ideally once a week, to push a library cart through the prison to the various units, giving the inmates the opportunity to borrow books [and return those previously borrowed.]  Our goal is to eventually have every unit visited every week.

Those interested can contact Beverley deBarros at bmicah6v8@yahoo.com.

1. Mother Barnes reported that **Cypress House**, a non-profit ministry affiliated with St. Luke’s has had two Board meetings and has elected officers.
2. Atty. Shannon Brown reported that the **Greater Scranton Homeless Coalition** had been formed out of concerns that with Bethel AME’s decision not to open the emergency shelter this winter there might well be folks who would be in serious difficulty. Two meetings have been held so far, with another scheduled for next week at the Keystone Mission on Olive Street. Phil Yevics suggested that the Ministerium’s concerns for this population be channeled through the Coalition, and promised to make their contact information available so members could sign on to their contact list.
3. Sr. Terry noted that plans were proceeding for the **Martin Luther King Weekend**, and the Ministerium had responsibility for the Interfaith Service that closes the festivities on Monday evening.
4. The November Ministerium meeting will be on **Wednesday November 14**, hosted by Msgr. Rupert at St. Peter Roman Catholic Cathedral Rectory on Wyoming Avenue in Scranton.

Rev. Mary Owens made a motion to adjourn, Rev. Rebecca Barnes seconded, the motion passed with enthusiastic support from all in attendance.