SCRANTON AREA MINISTERIUM Minutes 21 September 2016

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, 410 Broadway, Scranton

**Present:**

Dan Hammer, EOTC Reentry Riaz Hussain Ph.D, UofS Mosque

Rev. Ricardo Jackson, Chaplain, SCI Dallas Kathy Kaskel, GeisingerCMC

Rev. Jack Munley, Hospice Chaplain, President Sr. Terry O’Rourke IHM, Friends of the Poor

Rev. James Redington SJ, UofS Rev. JoAnn Usry

Vera Walline, BaHai Community Phil Yevics, Volunteer at LCP

Rev. Munley thanked Phil Yevics for hosting the meeting and invited him to offer the opening prayer.

He then asked everyone at the table to introduce themselves.

1. **Minutes of previous meeting:** There were none, as the secretary arrived after the meeting had concluded. Discussion raised the following noteworthy items from the May meeting that was held at Marywood University.
2. Election of new Officers
   1. President, Rev. Jack Munley
   2. Vice President, Rev. Jim Redington S.J.
   3. Secretary, Phil Yevics
3. Recognition of departing members leaving the area
   1. Rev. Calvin Rich, outgoing president
   2. Rev. Howard Woodruff
4. Distribution of Thanksgiving Collection should go through SAM, equal shares to Friends of the Poor and Family to Family
5. Financial Report, Dr. Hussain; See the Report distributed with these minutes.
   1. Dr. Hussain noted that the distribution of the Collection from the Thanksgiving Interfaith Service had been distributed through SAM to Friends of the Poor and the Family to Family program, as discussed at the previous meeting.
   2. He encouraged those who were able to contribute their dues for the 2016 calendar year.
   3. Kathy Kaskel made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented, Fr. Redington seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
6. Planning for Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Sr. Terry is coordinating this for Friends of the Poor.
   1. It was agreed that the service would be based on that prepared last year, with the addition of a BaHai prayer, which Vera Walline will forward to Sr. Terry.
   2. Members then volunteered for the various roles within the service:
      1. Welcome – Rev. Jack Munley, President of SAM
      2. Call to Worship – Dr. Hussain [If he is not able to be present he will arrange for another Muslim to lead the call to prayer.]
      3. Psalm Invitation to Prayer – Rev. Ricardo Jackson
      4. Reading from Hebrew Scriptures – Rabbi Swartz and Rabbi Berman will be asked to do again
      5. Reading from Christian Scriptures – Rev. JoAnn Usry
      6. Homily - Rev. James Redington
      7. Prayers of Intercession – Robsons [Chairs of Family to Family] and Chaplain Kaskel
      8. Sending Forth – Rev. Michael Bealla, Pastor of Elm Park, will be asked to take this on
   3. The Service will be on Monday November 21st, starting at 12:10, televised by CTV of the Scranton RC Diocese. SAM members are asked to assemble in the Rectory at 11:45 and are encouraged to bring liturgical vestments. Members who do not have speaking roles in the service are still asked to join the group precession and sit in the front to bring some recognition to the Ministerium.
7. Future Meetings; cf “SAM Meeting and Events Schedule” distributed with these minutes.
   1. Normally SAM meets on the Second Wednesday of the Month starting at 9 AM.
   2. This month we moved it back a week to avoid a conflict with the quarterly meeting of the Christian Communities of NEPA.
   3. The October meeting needs to be rescheduled – it was decided to schedule it on the 4th Wednesday, October 26
      1. Oct. 12 this year is Yom Kippur.
      2. Oct 19 is the Healing Communities Training
   4. The November Meeting will be on Wednesday November 9. Msgr. Rupert had volunteered to host it at St. Peter’s Roman Catholic Cathedral, noting that this had been done in the past to facilitate planning for the Thanksgiving service.
   5. Fr. Redington reported that Dr. Helen Wolf, Director of Campus Ministry at the University of Scranton, would be eager to host the meeting during the Spring of 2017.
   6. Members are asked to consider the Schedule distributed with these minutes and to consider hosting one of the future meetings.
8. Sharing of other events. Members who want to publicize events between meetings should send a notice to the Secretary – [Philyevics@gmail.com](mailto:Philyevics@gmail.com), who will then distribute the notice to the membership.
   1. GeisingerCMC Interfaith Chapel

Chaplain Kathy Kaskel reported that the new Interfaith Chapel at Geisinger CMC is undergoing final installations. There will be a formal Dedication later this Fall and she is eager to have as broad an Interfaith representation as possible. She will forward details as they become available.

* 1. Lecture on Refugee Crisis at U of Scranton

**2016 Hoban Memorial Lecture Featuring David Miliband**  Tuesday, 27 September, 2016 - 06:30 PM, 4th Floor of DeNaples Student Center.  <http://calendar.scranton.edu/index.php?eID=15005>

* 1. Healing Communities Training, Wednesday Oct. 19, 2016, Holy Dormition Byzantine Friary, Route 93 Sybertsville PA, 10 AM to 4 PM.
     1. A flier for this event is distributed with these minutes.
     2. Pax Christi of NEPA has an Outreach Initiative offering to give a 15 minute presentation to leadership groups within faith communities about why they should care about folks who are getting out of prison. A flier for this initiative is also distributed with these minutes.
  2. Turkey Trot 5K to benefit Friends of the Poor, Sunday Nov. 6
  3. Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Monday Nov. 21, starting at 12:10 PM
  4. Thanksgiving Dinner sponsored by Friends of the Poor – Tuesday November 22 at the Scranton Cultural Center. Doors open at 5 PM, Dinner at 6.
  5. Family to Family distribution of Thanksgiving Food baskets, Wednesday November 23.
  6. The Martin Luther King Commemoration Committee is actively planning for activities around Martin Luther King Day, celebrated on Monday January 16 2017. Charlotte Ledbetter is involved, and Rev. Usry is on the Board. SAM is eager to support these activities in any way possible, and JoAnn promised to keep us informed as plans develop.

1. Shaping the future of SAM
   1. Mission Statement from Facebook Page

*The Scranton Area Ministerium is a gathering of clergy and religious leaders throughout Lackawanna County. We seek to promote interfaith cooperation and understanding, and to build a better community for all.*

* 1. Web Page
     1. Rabbi Swartz has created and is maintaining a page on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/ScrantonAreaMinisterium/>
     2. There was discussion of a page on the internet – Sr. John Michelle had someone working on it, but she does not recall anything further about it. There is nothing active now.
        1. Members felt strongly that there is a need for a web presence for the Ministerium. This will be discussed at future meetings.
  2. Membership
     1. Rev. Munley and Dr. Yevics suggested thought should be given to expanding the membership to become more representative of the faith communities of NEPA. This will be discussed at future meetings.
     2. Phil noted that in fact there are different levels of participation, with some folks regularly attending meetings and paying dues, and others simply recieving the emails.
  3. Interest areas for activities. Phil Yevics suggested that there were various interest areas that the SAM should be involved in. It is probable that individual members might only be interested in one or two of these. Possible interest areas include:
     1. Education concerning our various faith Traditions
     2. Ongoing leadership training, e.g. Mental Health First Aid, Suicide Prevention and Postvention, Conflict Mediation, etc.
     3. Faith Based advocacy on the environment
     4. Genocide Prevention
     5. …

1. The Next meeting will be on **Wednesday October 26**, starting at **9 AM**. Rev. Munley will make inquiries to determine the location.
2. Fr. Redington made a motion to adjourn, Rev. Jackson seconded, it passed by acclamation.