

M&SA Minutes
Sunday March 29, 2020

John Sampson announced a special M&SA Zoom meeting as part of his announcements that would take 5-10 minutes following the service. Joining were; Lorraine Duvall, Naj Wikoff, Ingrid Carman, Karen Glass, Katharine Preston, Jenny Hoffman and Shawn LaMarche along with pastor John

Attendees agreed on two priorities: Covid-17 response and Creation Justice

Naj had reached out to Sylvia Getman, CEO of Adk Health to learn if they needed volunteers to help create protective gear such as masks (he had seen a video by a surgeon on how to make them). Getman responded in the positive and had Hanna Hannaford of AMC reach out to him, she in turn connecting him with Gail Brill, a member of the Creative Healing Connections board, who was leading the volunteer effort and has organized a by-invitation Facebook page to facilitate the response, training, and access to materials.

Naj heard from John that Karen Glass said she was willing to lead the KVCC effort. Karen agreed saying that her focus was making masks to assist her son, who works in healthcare in NYC where the need is great. Karen shared her process for making them as well as the need for headbands with buttons so the masks can be tied to them rather than the ears or behind the head. Karen said she was not aware of a local need nor about Gail Brill. Naj offered to connect Karen with Gail (since has done so) and John said if Karen reached out to Liz Jaques, she'd post the opportunity to create masks on the KVCC newsletter.

Attendees agreed that if there was an expense (postage, materials) that that would be a worthy expense for Karen's mask project. John followed up that M&SA has funds that it has not allocated, which it usually allocates in \$500 amounts. Lorraine suggest increasing the size of our financial support. Naj mentioned that we have a little over \$4,000 available and a few larger gifts could burn through it quickly. It was agreed we need to be strategic.

Katharine said that in her experience most communities are trying to take care of their own and described how her Town Supervisor in Essex is keeping in close touch with townspeople and distributing donated food, cleaning, hygiene supplies as needed. John pointed out that the KVCC community extends beyond Keene. Everyone agreed to take a wait and see approach at the moment.

A question was raised about the need for access to healthy food, and Martha suggested supporting Families First and to see what if anything the school (KCS) was doing. She agreed to contact both agencies and since learned from Dan Mayberry that the school was supporting around 35 families with breakfasts and lunches. Naj mentioned that a high percent of the Adirondack Foundation grants are being used to make food accessible, and several via grants to schools. Martha said several other foundations were working with Adk Foundation. A question was, did the foundation support individuals directly, and the answer was no, but they could support the Church which in turn could support individuals via the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

John Described the Fund, how it's replenished, and that by and large he supports most requests as nearly all reflect a true need. He said the fund at the moment is sound, but that if there was an increase in demand it could be drained. It was agreed that M&SA could consider making in-house contribution, and that The PDF might well receive \$ from the Adk Foundation as it fits their guidelines, probably the sooner we apply the better.

Naj raised a concern about the emotional well-being of the community. John replied that Betsey Thomas-Train offered to help. Naj noted that John Haverlick had recently returned from Germany and might be able to help. John asked Naj to reach out to Haverlick. He did and he agreed to help. The suggestion is that Pastor John meet with Thomas-Train, Haverlick and Town Health Officer Bob Andrews to discuss options.

Shifting to Justice Creation, it was noted that one information session was held with not a large turnout. It was agreed that an ideal time might be the Sunday following Easter, a service that will be led by Katharine Preston. It was noted that people often hang around on Zoom – that they have a need to connect thus this might be a great way to reach a larger percent of the Congregation. Lorraine agreed and John said he'd help her learn how to take over Zoom. She noted that she can only connect to the internet when in town, i.e. when parked by the Keene Library.

It was agreed to go back to the regular M&SA schedule unless a special need arises.